“Sagging Morals”

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My husband and I took our granddaughter to the Pittsburgh Zoo a couple of weeks ago. We were getting onto the elevator to go a level down so we could leave. The elevator attendant working that day should have been ashamed of himself. He was in proper uniform but he was sporting his uniform pants down under his butt cheeks and you could plainly see his underwear. That is awful for a child to see. The young generation of today need to respect themselves and other people by pulling up their britches and wearing them the way they were intended to be worn, around the waist. By wearing their pants in this fashion they are sending out a disrespectful statement, “If y'all don't like us or the way we talk or the way we act, we don't really care.” [Williams, O.K. (2010). The Suppression of a Saggin' Expression: Exploring the “Sagging Pants” Style Within a First Amendment Context. Indiana Law Journal, 85(3), 1169-1196.]

When parents are teaching their children right from wrong or respect, it is difficult to do so when they see other people around them wearing saggy pants. They get the wrong impression that it is cool and do it to fit in. Some schools are already taking this fashion into their own hands and zip tying the offenders pants up. Parents have also been supportive of this. [Lee, T. (2011). Fighting the Saggy Pants Syndrome. Essence (Time Inc.) 41(12), 88] All schools should implement the zip tie to anyone sagging their pants, along with banning this type of fashion into the dress code.

It is disgraceful no matter what race or gender you are to wear your pants below your buttocks. No one wants to see someone's underwear. It is disrespectful, rude, and uncouth not only to the public which has to look at it but also to the young adult who is sporting this type of fashion. The fashion originated in the prisons as belts were not allowed due to suicide attempts. It is even alleged that prisoner's wore their pants in this manner to show sexual availability; our youth should have enough pride to be above this. [Adams, E., & Collins, T. (2010, April). Fellas, nobody wants to see your drawers. Pull up your pants! New York Amsterdam News. p.12.]

Leaders in all communities should stand together on this issue and some are already starting to. New York State Sen. Eric Adams bought a billboard for his “Stop the Sag!” campaign in 2010. The residents of Terrebonne Parish, La. Could start getting fines for wearing their pants low enough to show their underwear. [[www.nydailynews.com](http://www.nydailynews.com/)] President Obama is not even interested in seeing peoples underwear when he stated, “Brothers should pull up their pants. You are walking by your mother, your grandmother, your underwear is showing. What's wrong with that? Come on. There are issues that we face, that you don't have to pass a law, but that doesn't mean folks can't have some sense and respect for other people and, you know, some people might not want to see your underwear – I'm one of them.” [nymag.com]

There should be penalties for wearing saggy pants. Restaurants and public places need to refuse service to those who do not have their pants pulled up properly. As the saying goes, “No shirt, No shoes, No service.” Places of employment need to send an employee home and write them up if they insist on dressing in this fashion to work. All schools should ban this type of fashion and start to zip tie the individuals pants. Law enforcement should be able to start fining individuals caught with their pants down. It should be considered disorderly conduct and indecent exposure.

Taking a stand against the saggy pants fashion is considered violating the individuals right, the right to free speech and free expression. This is correct and I will agree with this, but if we let this go, how much farther will people take it? There has to be a line somewhere. Where do we draw it? When do we draw it? There are claims that by cracking down on this type of fashion we are singling out poor African-American males. That is far from the truth. Sagging pants are seen in all communities from lower class to upper class, from females to males and among all races.

“It's not about individual rights; it's about values,” as said by Del. Algie Howell Jr. [Balko, R. (2002). Pants Police. Reason, 39(8), 10-11.] The young generation need to start respecting themselves by showing that they care. They are sending out the wrong message contrary to what they think and believe. They stand out in a crowd and tag themselves as thugs, when actually they could be very decent, caring and polite individuals. This fashion shows a lack of respect for other people by letting their rumps hang out. Really, no one wants to see their underwear. When did the morals that was once taught to children just fly out the window? When and why did the youth of today forget how to respect their elders? It is obvious that the youth of today stopped caring for themselves and everyone else around them. Does that mean we should stop caring? Does that mean we should continue to let them do as they please? Morals and respecting others need to be a major role in everyone's life.

References

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