Consultation on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

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<th>Tystiolaeth i’r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar gyfer craffu Cyfnod 1 Bil Plant (Diddymu Amddiffyniad Cosb Resymol) (Cymru)</th>
<th>Evidence submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill</th>
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About you
Individual

1  The Bill’s general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill?
— No

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

There is a world of difference between smacking and abuse and good parents understand this. This proposed bill will never prevent bad parents from abusing their children but will deny loving parents access to an important tool which they may need recourse to in the context of raising a well balanced and happy child.

As the majority of Welsh parents (75%) are against this ban, the National Assembly for Wales’ seeming determination to impose it against the majority will is patronising, undemocratic and dictatorial. It seems that Assembly members no longer feel that they are elected to represent the views of their constituents, but rather to put forward their own views.

The costs required to enforce this bill, being financial, human and institutional will be excessive. Our social services and police are already unable to cope with their current workload and this would only render them less able to deal with serious crime. Schools would also find yet another demand placed on them to report anything they feel would constitute a breach of this proposed new legislation.
1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No. The current laws are more than adequate to protect children from abuse and only need to be enforced.

2 The Bill’s implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

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2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

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3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

Criminalising good, loving and caring parents will only serve to have a negative impact on the family unit, with the possibility of job losses or even losing their own children. A child subsequently brought up ‘in care’ will suffer greatly for this. The crime statistics prove that broken homes are a common thread in criminal's lives.

I believe that we will also see an increase in anti-social behaviour, as there are times when appropriate, measured physical discipline of a child is necessary, often when reasoning has failed. The knowledge that they cannot be physically punished is bound to lead to a breakdown of discipline in the home as the ultimate sanction has been removed, which will extend beyong the boundaries of the home into public life.

4 Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum)? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)
5 Other considerations

5.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)