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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CADRP-546</td>
<td>CADRP-546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)

I believe the proposals are misguided, unnecessary and seriously flawed with significant consequences. I write as a responsible father of four now adult children. Together with my wife we have soberly and lovingly raised our children to be responsible law respecting citizens. They love us and thank us for reasonable chastisements that sometimes were required. Sometimes a measured smack was used but nothing to breach the spirit of the current law. We have a wonderfully functional loving family.

I could also respond if your format allowed as a teacher with vast experience and success in the field of working with pupils who present challenging behaviours. Suffice to say I have plenty of experience of lack of back up to tackle genuine pause concerns, let alone to have this swamped by a regime that pours resources into misguided meddling (and even potential criminalising) of excellent parents.

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 legislation is already there to protect against those whose actions go beyond reasonable. Why lump sound law abiding, effective parents in with the dysfunctional and broken individuals who genuinely need outside help? The vast majority of adults knew some physical chastisements as children yet the vast majority are law abiding and not violent.

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)

Cost and expertise will be massive barriers.

There would be a need to discern between true problems and the good parents who know, love and care passionately for their children’s wellbeing, safety and readiness for the big wide world. Huge psychological damage could result from meddling, in my opinion vastly outweighing any harm that true reasonable chastisements could cause. My children have known measured correction , sometimes though very rarely physical, backed by thorough restorative work. Please understand they are utterly unharmed and have no ill effects. We used many other strategies to parent effectively. How messed up and confused they would be had the state interfered!

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)

No

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)

Yes. Why meddle when the law already protects against true abuse by sick, misguided or dysfunctional individuals. Why drain resources of time and money into messing with decent, measured, responsible citizens who have proved marvellous capability to parent effectively? Good parents recognise that children are for life, to love, train, support and prepare for their future.

How confusing that a professional like myself could be criminalised for loving my children enough to be strong and stand up to wrongdoing in ways I have learned from my own wonderful late parents. Small correctives when young have resulted in healthy respect for the law of the land.
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)

Huge financial implications likely as minor correctives lead to needless, harmful investigations and costly consequences. I don't think the state has a good track record in caring for looked after children! Mine have not been a cost to society in my care.

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)

No. Just drop it.