



The **Methodist Church** 



Dear Sir/Madam

On Wednesday 1st February the Welfare Reform Bill will be debated in the House of Commons. The Government is seeking to overturn an amendment passed in the House of Lords which removes Child Benefit from the benefit cap.

The Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the United Reformed Church and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers in Britain) disagree with the principle behind a benefit cap and ask you to consider the consequences of breaking the fundamental relationship between a family's needs and its benefit entitlements.

We have an obligation as a decent society to support those in need and are prepared to contribute to society as much as they were able. Removing support from people because their family's needs exceed an arbitrary amount cannot be morally justified. This is particularly relevant now when so many people who have worked hard are, through no fault of their own, without employment.

There has been an active debate within the church about this issue and a set of FAQs explaining the principled position we have taken have been placed on our website to facilitate this. This is attached, should it be of interest.

It is now clear that the largest group of people affected by the proposed cap will be the children of the poorest. The amendment passed in the House of Lords helps protect thousands of children from poverty. We therefore ask that you vote against placing Child Benefit back inside the benefit cap.

Yours sincerely

Paul Morrison

on behalf of the Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church

Michael Bartlet

Parliamentary Liaison Secretary, Quakers in Britain