



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
4 July 2014

Sarah Champion MP demands Minister supports Rotherham's disabled students

Sarah Champion MP has taken the fight to the government to stop the imposition of funding cuts to disabled students. In a speech to Parliament, Sarah spoke out on behalf of Rotherham's young disabled people, arguing that the funding – which is for vital equipment and support that makes learning accessible - should be continued.

Sarah, who consulted closely with Rotherham's Disability Network to understand the impact of these cuts, claimed that without the funding to make university accessible, disabled youngsters from Rotherham would find it very hard to afford to go to university.

In her speech, Sarah argued: "Cutting funding to disabled students with what the Government deem to be lesser support needs will mean that although some students are given support to access university on a level playing field, others will be denied access to equality of education.

"It is unfair and unreasonable to think that any person should be barred from furthering their education because of a disability. The major impact of the funding cuts on disabled students in Rotherham is that the potential hardship caused by paying for modifications will mean that many families will have to decide whether they can afford to send their son or daughter to university at all.

"Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, will have the odds stacked against them in economic and disability terms. Unfortunately, the funding cuts will be make or break when it comes to deciding whether to go to university. Surely that is not fair.

"Disabled students have enough barriers to face in getting to university in the first place; we should not be cutting the vital support they need to access university learning and services while they are there."

Sarah has also signed the Parliamentary Early Day Motion 48, which condemns the cuts to disabled students, and has co-signed a letter to the Minister along with David Blunkett MP, asking him to reverse the cuts.

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Notes to Editors:

The full text of the debate can be found here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140702/halltext/140702h0001.htm#14070274000001>

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