



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
Friday 29th January 2016

Rotherham MP Sarah Champion welcomes Government defeat on disability benefit cut

Sarah Champion MP, Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse and Domestic Violence, paid tribute to peers in the House of Lords after they defeated the Government's plan to slash the welfare payments of around 1,020 ill and disabled people in Rotherham.

Sarah said:

"We have to be thankful to the Lords once again for stopping the Government from pushing through more pernicious legislation that unfairly targets the disabled and the very ill and threatens to plunge them into poverty. The Lords have given the Government the chance to reconsider these iniquitous cuts. I urge them to do so."

Under Government plans, the Employment Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) payment, which goes to people deemed too ill to work but able to engage in work-related training, was to be cut by £30, taking it from £102.15 to £73.10 per week, leaving some with losses of up to £1,500 a year.

Earlier this week 30 charities wrote to Welfare and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, warning him that the "cut (to ESA) would push sick and disabled people further away from work and closer to poverty."

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITOR

Charities' letter to Government -

<https://disabilitybenefitsconsortium.wordpress.com/2016/01/23/30-national-charities-and-peers-sign-open-letter-calling-on-government-to-stop-30-a-week-esa-cut/>

*1,020 figure provided by Macmillan Cancer using Department of Work and Pensions tabulation tool

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If you would like to receive Sarah's E-newsletter to learn more about her work representing Rotherham - please click [here](#) to subscribe