

The Times
Letters
22.02.17



Child protection

Sir, Under proposals in the Children and Social Work Bill, this and future governments will be able to exempt individual local authorities from existing statutory duties to children and young people without further parliamentary approval. Put simply, the legal rights of children will depend on where they live.

After the defeat of the clauses in the House of Lords, some core duties to children in need are protected from exemption applications, but there is no protection for the most vulnerable group of all: the 50,000 children who have been found by the court to have suffered significant harm and been placed in care under a care order.

This process involves a judge entrusting a local authority with legal parental responsibility, overriding the legal responsibility of the child's parents. Unlike real parents, the new corporate parents may in future have different legal duties to their children from the corporate parents next door. We must not allow these clauses to pass into law.

MARTHA COVER AND DEBBIE INGLETON, co-chairwomen, Association of Lawyers for Children; ROBERT BOURNS, president, the Law Society; PHILIP MARSHALL, QC, chairman, Family Law Bar Association; NIGEL SHEPHERD, chairman, Resolution

Taxing question

Sir, Robots should pay tax as humans.

Brex

Sir, Your leaf (Feb 21) has c as an unexpe escape the u common agr While govern (domestic ag largely a dev searching for they should l fundamental to counter m provision of l equity goals (poverty); and as permitting elsewhere in perfectly sati: domestic agri contain paym delivering em perhaps at lev currently ava

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Judicia

Sir, The respo the legal estab 18) to Michael thoughtful crit judicial power astonishing — "dangerous" at rule of law?