

A19

Ymchwiliad i Fil Awtistiaeth (Cymru) / Inquiry into the Autism (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Unigolyn

Response from an individual

Private member's bill to require rapid diagnosis of autism (Ian Davies AM)

As a parent of an autistic person, ex-field professional and activist, could you carefully consider the following:

The proposed legislation has the potential to be seriously counterproductive.

As I understand it the agreed professional approach to diagnosis is cumbersome and time consuming, so the proposed legislation may speed up the start of the process but could not influence the rate of its completion, which is a clinical procedure. Since the legislation makes no provision for additional finance, practitioners required to kick start the process would need to lay aside important supportive work to the detriment of the people concerned and their families.

Families affected by autism usually need immediate input which the proposed legislation may well delay. Service decisions need to be made on the basis of perceived need and not be contingent on diagnosis which is a red herring. I know that there are parents who mistakenly believe that the application of a clinical label via diagnosis will lead to speedier service delivery. However, if implemented, this proposal could do far more harm than good and should not be passed into legislation.

Sincerely yours,

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