

Mental capacity bill attracts criticism

Sir, It is with dismay that we note the lack of improvement within the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill. The bill would replace existing deprivation of liberty safeguards with an entirely unfit new system of protection. To avoid the risk of exploitation and abuse it is vital that there are robust safeguards in place.

Alarming, the bill proposes to triple the time that people can be deprived of their liberty without review (from one to three years) while not doing enough to guarantee that all patients have access to independent and impartial advocates. The bill also creates a worrying conflict of interest for care home managers, giving them a greater role in the assessment process. Many vulnerable people will find it hard to express their concerns to a person providing them with care. The result is a rushed, incomplete and unworkable bill that will replace one dysfunctional system with another. COREY STOUGHTON, Liberty; PAUL FARMER, Mind; JEREMY HUGHES,

Alzheimer's Society; MARK LEVER, National Autistic Society; MARK LISTER, POHWER; STEVE FORD, Parkinson's UK; SANCHITA HOSALI, British Institute of Human Rights; RICHARD KRAMER, Sense; SARAH WOOTTON, Compassion in Dying; EMMA THOMAS, YoungMinds; SAMANTHA CLARK, Learning Disability England; RHIDIAN HUGHES, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group; PETER MCCABE, Headway

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14