

**Press Release Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

**Social Security (Lone Parents & Miscellaneous Amendments)  
Regulations 2008**

At 10.00 today (Thursday) the House of Lords Merits Committee will publish its report on the Social Security (lone parents and miscellaneous amendments) Regulations 2008. The measures, which have been met with opposition throughout their progress through Parliament, will then be presented to both Houses of Parliament for approval.

The controversial measures will move lone parents from Income Support to Job Seekers Allowance and permit benefit sanctions to be applied if "decision makers" are unconvinced that lone parents are making sufficient efforts to obtain employment.

Fiona Nicholson of Education Otherwise commented "We hope even at this late stage the Government might reconsider implementing these proposals. In a time of economic recession with spiralling unemployment the imposition of benefit sanctions will be punitive. It will have the opposite effect from that intended. Instead of reducing child poverty it will plunge families further into financial difficulties."

Education Otherwise hope the report will draw particular attention to the difficulties the measures will pose for home educating lone parents, especially where children have special needs or have been victims of bullying in school.

"We hope that Members of both Houses will see that these measures are now out of step with the realistic employment prospects of our home educating lone parents who have extra caring responsibilities and no suitable childcare provision. The Government has been prepared to take exceptional measures in exceptional times. We hope that MPs and Lords will see that these proposals are even more untenable in the current economic climate."

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## **Reference for Editors**

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/welfarereform.htm>

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