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**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
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‘Benefit cap opponents fail to tackle worklessness’, says CSJ Executive Director

Gavin Poole, Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice, has issued the following statement:

“Opponents in the House of Lords have missed a crucial opportunity to support the benefit cap - a policy which would bring about positive welfare reform. The plans to cap benefits at £26,000 a year are part of a wider package of reforms which will help bring to an end our damaging welfare dependency culture.

“This result is peculiarly out of line with public opinion which shows that almost 80% were in support of the proposed cap.

“Britain has been gripped by a worklessness crisis for years – the number of households where no one has ever worked doubled since 1997, and 2 million children are growing up in workless households. Tonight members of the House of Lords failed to provide the leadership required to start reversing that failure.

“We urge the Government to press ahead with its benefit cap reforms whilst ensuring the families negatively impacted by it in the short term will get the help they require.”

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For media inquiries, please contact Nick Wood of Media Intelligence Partners Ltd on 07889 617003 or 0203 008 8146 or Alistair Thompson on 07970 162225 or 0203 008 8145.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank established, by Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP in 2004, to seek effective solutions to the poverty that blights parts of Britain.

In July 2007 the group published *Breakthrough Britain. Ending the Costs of Social Breakdown*. The paper presented over 190 policy proposals aimed at ending the growing social divide in Britain.

Subsequent reports have put forward proposals for reform of the police, prisons, social housing, the asylum system and family law. Other reports have dealt with street gangs and early intervention to help families with young children.