

## THE TWO CHILD LIMIT IN SOCIAL SECURITY: EMAIL OF 4/8/25 FROM ABTISAM MOHAMMED MP

Dear David,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Thank you for writing to me about the two-child benefit cap and for asking others to sign your letter in support. Please do relay to them my response.

As a member of the APPG on Poverty and Inequality and my experience of working in the community as a councillor, I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts of poverty. One of my political priorities is to tackle poverty and I will support all efforts to reduce it.

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has called the sibling penalty “the biggest driver of rising child poverty” stating that it denies families up to £3,500 per child per year. Crucially, this is not a neutral economic measure, it is a political choice. A recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that abolishing the two-child limit would lift around 300,000 children out of poverty overnight and reduce poverty for many more. As you rightly point out, it is indefensible that children are being denied support simply because of their birth order. Every child deserves the same start in life - no exceptions.

I also have concerns about the strain on the wider systems designed to support families. Over the past decade, we’ve seen a devastating erosion of early years services, including the loss of thousands of Sure Start centres, cuts to local authority funding, and under-investment in health visiting, childcare, and parental support. The consequence is that families are struggling not only financially, but also emotionally and practically, with little to no support. This is particularly harmful during the earliest months and years, when support is most needed and most impactful.

I spoke in a debate ‘Giving every child the best start in life’ in which I emphasised the importance of early years support. You can read my speech in full [here](#). I welcomed the establishment of the Government’s Child Poverty Taskforce and any recognition that child poverty requires urgent and joined-up action. But rhetoric is not enough. I believe the two-child limit should be scrapped as a first and essential step toward rebuilding a fairer system for families.

However, I am pleased to see that the government is taking substantive steps as a down payment on the Child Poverty Strategy. This includes expanding Free School Meals to reach more children, lifting an estimated 100,000 children out of poverty. The Government is also launching a new Crisis and Resilience Fund, backed by £1 billion a year, to prevent families from falling into hardship and ensure children do not go without meals during the holidays. Local authorities will be responsible for directing this funding where it is most needed.

I will continue to make the case within Parliament and to ministers that the cap must be lifted if we are serious about tackling poverty and inequality from the earliest stages of life. I will also support calls for increased investment in early years services, because we cannot improve outcomes for children without a properly funded, integrated system of care and support.

I hope you can rest assured that I will continue to press this where I can.

Thanks again for writing. If you’d like to be kept up to date with my work, please [sign up](#) for my monthly newsletter here.

With best wishes,



**Abtisam Mohamed MP**  
Member of Parliament for Sheffield Central

