Submission from Síne Ghilleasbuig

A charaid chòir,

I am employed by Comunn na Gàidhlig. My remit is to support Gaelic medium education in the Island of Skye and create opportunities for Gaelic development both within and outwith the school curriculum.

Recently I received sight of a submission by Comann nam Pàrant Port Rìgh to the Education and Culture Committee.

I confirm that I support the submission and the evidence therein as it relates to the Education (Scotland) Bill. I would ask the Committee to consider amendments to the Bill - and particularly in relation to Section 11 - to ensure that families in Scotland who have demonstrated reasonable demand are subsequently granted a right to Gaelic education, wherever in Scotland they might live.

As the Bill currently stands, a process is guaranteed for those families who demonstrate that reasonable demand exists for new provision in their locality. However, unless an obligation to deliver within a stipulated time frame is placed upon local authorities, there is no guarantee that this demand will be met. By putting obligation onto the local authorities, families might have confidence that new Gaelic educational provision will become a reality.

We need this Bill to be as effective as possible, and this addition could make a considerable difference to Gaelic educational provision in Scotland in the years to come.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Leis gach dèagh dhùrachd

Síne Ghilleasbuig
Gaelic Development Officer
Comunn na Gàidhlig