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Convener  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
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Dear Convener

We are contacting you as Co-Chairs of Enable's National Self-Advocacy Forum as we are aware you are currently considering the evidence you have received during your Stage 1 consideration of the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions) (Scotland) Bill which is being proposed by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP. We were pleased to submit evidence to the Bill, and aware you also heard evidence of its importance for children and young people who have learning disabilities in oral evidence from the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities and Pamis.

As you consider the recommendations the Committee will make in its report on the General Principles of the Bill, we would like to stress how important members of the Enable National Self-Advocacy Forum believe this proposed is Bill to improve the experience of people who have learning disabilities through transitions. In our recent survey for our Rights Now! campaign for new laws to protect and promote the rights of people who have learning disabilities, transitions was listed as one of the highest priorities for action. Participants in the survey were people who have learning disabilities, their families and people who provide support for them, with 629 people taking part and providing a range of experiences and perspectives on current challenges in transitions.

We know good transitions are possible. Enable Works provides support for young people who have learning disabilities to make positive transitions through programmes such as Stepping Up in schools, which supports young people who have a learning disability, autism or additional support needs to build and explore their aspirations for the future, achieve an accredited qualification and a positive destination on leaving school. Stepping Up shows what can be achieved through support for transitions - since 2009, Stepping Up has delivered a 98% positive destination rate, significantly higher than the current destination rate for school leavers with additional support needs. 30% of Stepping Up graduates go into work on leaving school. Yet too often this kind of support is not available, creating a situation where only 7% of people who have learning disabilities are in paid employment.

We are also aware of gaps in support faced by young people who have learning disabilities as they transition from young people's to adult health and social care services, and believe the Bill can help address these issues as well. A National Transitions Strategy and the introduction of Transitions Plans for all disabled children and young people, including people with learning disabilities, would help embed the importance of transitions support for young people and end

the current experience of transitions being considered at such a late stage that the window for achieving a positive impact on a young person's outcomes has been missed.

While we believe there may well be scope to improve the Bill further through the parliamentary process, we very much hope the Committee will agree the general principles of the Bill have significant potential to address significant gaps in support for transitions which exist now and help thousands of young disabled people, including people with learning disabilities, to have significantly better experiences of transitions in the future.

Yours sincerely

**Lucy McKee and Kirsty Kennedy-Hyman**  
**Co-Chairs Enable National Self-Advocacy Group**