

## Dear House of Lords - please tell Lansley where to stuf...

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400 medics have signed the following letter published in the Daily Telegraph today ([hat tip to Liberal Conspiracy](#)):

*Dear Honourable Members of the House of Lords,*

*As public health doctors and specialists from within the NHS, academia and elsewhere, we write to express our concerns about the Health and Social Care Bill.*

*The Bill will do irreparable harm to the NHS, to individual patients and to society as a whole.*

*It ushers in a significantly heightened degree of commercialisation and marketisation that will fragment patient care; aggravate risks to individual patient safety; erode medical ethics and trust within the health system; widen health inequalities; waste much money on attempts to regulate and manage competition; and undermine the ability of the health system to respond effectively and efficiently to communicable disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.*

*While we welcome the emphasis placed on establishing a closer working relationship between public health and local government, the proposed reforms as a whole will disrupt, fragment and weaken the country's public health capabilities.*

*The government claims that the reforms have the backing of the health professions. They do not. Neither do they have the general support of the public.*

*It is our professional judgement that the Health and Social Care Bill will erode the NHS's ethical and cooperative foundations and that it will not deliver efficiency, quality, fairness or choice.*

*We therefore request that you reject passage of the Health and Social Care Bill.*

Good for them.

And brave too. In a profession where those who step out of line are systematically bullied (as Dispatches showed last night) to sign such a letter takes real courage.

But Lansley will not, I am sure, have the courage to listen. I'm sure he's already planning his post-cabinet career. Now what might he be a consultant on, I wonder?