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## **TEACHERS NEED EDUCATION, MPs TOLD**

Education – not legislation through the proposed Compensation Bill – is the only way to reassure teachers and volunteers that they cannot be sued when genuine accidents happen to those in their care, MPs heard today.

The all-party parliamentary group on insurance and financial services heard from members of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) that the Government's plans to clarify the common law through legislation are misguided.

"If the purpose of this bill is to reassure volunteers and teachers that they cannot be sued for a genuine 'accident' then the Government has chosen the wrong tool for the job," said former APIL president Colin Ettinger.

"All teachers and other volunteers need to understand is that, before they take children on excursions, they need to assess any potential hazards before they go, and then take appropriate measures to prevent them becoming reality," he said.

"It's simply a matter of applying common sense, which is surely not too much to ask of those who take responsibility for our children.

"Legislation can only change the law," Ettinger explained. "It can't change a perception or an attitude – perceptions can only be changed through education and awareness, and we hope the Government will instigate an education programme which will clarify the situation and finally lay a lot of unfounded myths to rest."

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