An Bille um Chothroime Meabhair-Shláinte, 2017
Mental Health Parity Bill 2017

Meabhrán Minitheach
Explanatory Memorandum
Background to and purpose of the bill

Ensuring access to appropriate treatment for people with Mental Health needs is a major policy concern. Mental Health care has suffered from a systemic neglect and a lack of resources. The neglect of Mental Health is a deep seated cultural issue at policy, institutional, organisational and individual levels. This Bill aims to offer hope and provide a catalyst for better Mental Health care by ensuring that vulnerable persons with mental illness are cared for effectively and equally. It also aims to compel a conceptual shift in attitudes towards mental health at the highest level of policy making and governance. For the mentally vulnerable, effective integration of mental services with physical services is particularly important. This bill will place a duty on the Minister for Health to promote health parity and to ensure all organisations within our health system meet parity obligations in relation to Mental Health.

Deputy James Browne,