

*Dé Máirt, 21 Deireadh Fómhair, 2008  
Tuesday, 21st October, 2008*

2.30 p.m.

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**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA  
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

*Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairiscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion*

44. “That Dáil Éireann demands the immediate reversal of the Government decision to withdraw the automatic entitlement to a medical card from citizens aged over 70 years.” — *James Reilly, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D'Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Phil Hogan, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Fergus O'Dowd, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.*

*Leasú:*

*Amendment:*

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

- “ — acknowledges the Government’s expression of regret for the anxiety caused among older people in recent days and welcomes the new initiative to allay that anxiety;
- supports the decision by the Government to introduce a revised scheme with a gross weekly income threshold of €700/€1,400 (single/couple) (€36,500/€73,000 p.a.) for eligibility for a medical card for persons aged 70 and over so that approximately 330,000 persons aged 70 and over will continue to have a medical card;
- recognises that this initiative is within the context of the budgetary parameters set by the Government for the Health Service Executive;
- supports the Government’s move towards a single capitation payment to general practitioners in respect of medical card holders aged 70 and over and the process now to be undertaken to advance this;
- looks forward to the work to be undertaken in association with the Irish Medical Organisation under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael Barry to achieve savings in drug usage, without compromising patient care; and
- supports the Government’s policies to build a fair and equitable healthcare system by focusing public resources on those in most need.” — *An tAire Sláinte agus Leanaí.*