

(Supplementary Order Paper)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 1 Nollaig, 2009
Tuesday, 1st December, 2009

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

97. “That Dáil Éireann:

noting:

- the ongoing high cost of raising children in Ireland today and the significant cuts that have already been made to family income;
- that the Early Childcare Supplement will be abolished from January;
- the continuing very high cost of childcare;
- that every child deserves to be cherished and recognised by the State, regardless of the circumstances of its parents;
- that there is now no recognition of children in the tax system;
- that the universal nature of the current system of child benefit does not disincentivise work or add to poverty traps; and
- that a banded approach to child benefit would create several serious anomalies, discriminate against certain children and parents, create new poverty traps, and, in some circumstances, discourage participation in the workforce;

believes that cutting child benefit would be far more deflationary than alternative revenue raising or cost-saving measures open to the Government; and

calls on the Government to maintain child benefit at the current level in the forthcoming Budget.” — *Róisín Shortall, Eamon Gilmore, Joan Burton, Emmet Stagg, Thomas P. Broughan, Joe Costello, Michael D. Higgins, Brendan Howlin, Ciarán Lynch, Kathleen Lynch, Liz McManus, Brian O'Shea, Jan O'Sullivan, Willie Penrose, Ruairí Quinn, Pat Rabbitte, Seán Sherlock, Joanna Tuffy, Mary Upton, Jack Wall*

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

“recognising:

P.T.O.

- the importance of the child benefit payment to all families with children, and particularly those on low incomes;
- that, since 2000, the monthly rates of payment for Child Benefit has increased from just €53.96 for the first child and €71.11 for the third and subsequent children to €166 and €203 respectively;
- that overall expenditure on Child Benefit grew from just €638 million in 2000 to €2.5 billion in 2009;
- that the rate of consistent poverty among children, as measured by the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, has almost halved since 2003 – from 12.2% to 6.3%;
- that funding under the 2 childcare programmes, namely the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme and the National Childcare Investment Programme, is expected to create some 65,000 childcare places, the majority of which are already in place;
- that 98,000 places will be available next year under the new free pre-school scheme;
- that given the scale of the current economic crisis, failure to stabilise the public finances would lead to increased borrowing and jeopardise Ireland's ability to fund vital social services in future years; and
- that, in that context, it is appropriate to examine the €2.5 billion being spent on Child Benefit and consider how savings might be made in this area;

calls on the Government to consider the various options around Child Benefit and their implications for the needs of families with children, particularly those families on lower incomes, in the context of the forthcoming Budget.” — *An tAire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh*.