

(Supplementary Order Paper)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 18 Eanáir, 2011
Tuesday, 18th January, 2011

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

84. “That Dáil Éireann:

is concerned that:

- a national emergency has again emerged in Ireland’s hospitals with an unprecedented 569 patients on trolleys in January 2011;
- the Government will not publish legislation to introduce risk equalisation until 2013, despite having promised to do so within three years when it was struck out by the Supreme Court in 2008;
- the public hospital system is under increased strain due to rising unemployment at 444,000, businesses unable to access finance and many people in negative equity; and
- the VHI’s 1.35 million customers cannot afford increases of up to 45% in their private health insurance premiums because of the failure of the Minister for Health and Children to introduce risk equalisation; and

calls on the Government to:

- instruct the VHI to postpone premium increases until the Milliman Report is published and debated; and
- expedite the introduction of risk equalisation.” — *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.*

P.T.O.

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

- “— welcomes the action by Government to reduce unacceptable waiting times for patients in emergency departments and to pursue the target of ensuring that all patients are assessed, treated and discharged or admitted within six hours of registration at an emergency department;
- welcomes the roll-out of the Acute Medicine Programme which will provide that every medical patient presenting to hospital will be seen by a senior medical doctor within one hour and will provide access to same day diagnostics;
- endorses the Government’s strategy that the best way of achieving a stable health insurance market, where policies are relatively affordable for older and sicker people as well as younger and healthier people and where health insurance can evolve in a way which supports overall health policy objectives, is a situation where:
 - the core policy of community rating is supported by an effective, transparent risk equalisation scheme;
 - the State does not act as both regulator of the market and owner of a company in the market, particularly one with a large or dominant market share; and
 - there is a more even balance of older customers between companies in the market;
- notes that, following the Supreme Court decision in July 2008, the Government introduced interim loss compensation arrangements through the taxation system with effect from 1st January, 2009 which to date has provided for the transfer of €89 million and is estimated to allow for the transfer of a further €70 million in 2011;
- underlines the Minister’s intention to publish legislation this year which will provide for the development of a full, robust risk equalisation scheme which will protect the fundamental objective of community rated premiums, with transitional measures in place pending the introduction of the full scheme; and
- welcomes additional comprehensive actions being taken on private health insurance which include:
 - arranging the sale of the VHI, with appropriate capitalisation and authorisation in advance of this; and
 - pursuing measures to achieve a more even balance of customers among companies in the market.” — *An tAire Sláinte agus Leanaí.*