

Dé Máirt, 14 Iúil, 2020
Tuesday, 14th July, 2020

2 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

10. “That Dáil Éireann:

notes that due to the public health emergency, parents of young babies find themselves facing particular challenges, and that there is an added difficulty in securing childcare for new children;

acknowledges:

- the #ExtendMaternityLeave2020 campaign established by mothers currently on maternity leave;
- the National Women’s Council of Ireland’s support of the campaign; and
- the 28,000 people who signed a petition in support of the campaign; and

calls on the Government to:

- address this matter urgently by introducing a temporary extension of maternity benefit from six to nine months for mothers whose maternity benefit claim expires between the start of March and end of November, if they wish to avail of it; and
- ensure this extension is reviewed at the end of November and continued for further mothers, if necessary.” — *Claire Kerrane, Chris Andrews, John Brady, Martin Browne, Pat Buckley, Matt Carthy, Sorca Clarke, Rose Conway-Walsh, Réada Cronin, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pa Daly, Pearse Doherty, Paul Donnelly, Dessie Ellis, Mairéad Farrell, Kathleen Funchion, Thomas Gould, Johnny Guirke, Martin Kenny, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Johnny Mythen, Eoin Ó Broin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Louise O'Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan, Patricia Ryan, Brian Stanley, Pauline Tully, Mark Ward, Violet-Anne Wynne.*

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

“notes that the public health emergency has caused significant hardship and stress across our population, not least for parents and children, and acknowledges the issues raised by the

#ExtendMaternityLeave2020 campaign established by mothers currently on maternity leave and by the National Women's Council of Ireland's support of the campaign;

recognises that support for families, as we begin to reopen, is of paramount importance and welcomes the:

- financial supports for those experiencing job insecurity in the form of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment;
- support for employers in maintaining their staffing through the Temporary Wage Subsidence Scheme; and
- reopening of childcare which has relieved many parents of the burden of childcare while trying to work;

acknowledges the many advances made in enabling work-life balance for parents in recent years, including the:

- introduction of two weeks' paid parent's leave for each parent;
- extension of unpaid parental leave from 18 to 22 working weeks in September 2019 and extending to 26 working weeks from September 2020; and
- introduction of two weeks' Paternity Benefit in 2016; and

welcomes the fact that the Government proposes to examine in early course, as part of the budgetary process:

- the possible extension of paid parent's leave and Parent's Benefit from two to five weeks (constituting an additional three weeks per parent); and
- the possible extension of the period in which parent's leave can be taken by the cohort eligible until November 2021." — *An tAire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais*.