

A reason to implement any monetary scheme for parents is to benefit our society- increasing the mental, social physical, emotional and financial wellbeing of families, in both the short and long terms. Policy would therefore need to be equitable across all families, and ideally promote the pathway with the healthiest outcomes.

The draft bill on Paid Parental Leave fails in several ways:

It fails to acknowledge that all parents have a financial cost to childcare whether they outsource it or not, discriminating against mothers/fathers who choose to raise their own children. In this financial discrimination, parents will be encouraged into the workforce through necessity not choice. This will be exacerbated by allocating funding from areas that support fulltime parents.

External childcare has proven ill effects on child socialisation, behaviour and health.

These behavioural problems have a flow on effect in education as management of these inhibits classroom learning. This has a deleterious effect on our nation's societal and financial health, present and future.

It encourages late term abortions, where these are registered as a birth. The future legal ramifications for the present duality concerning an unborn baby's undefined status, dependant on its parent's wish, are another matter.

The bill proposes to encourage mother/child bonding- acknowledging this as a cornerstone to individual, and hence societal, health. As it stands the proposal will achieve the opposite of this. Supporting the bonding process for all parents, but perhaps particularly supporting those with greater need, is an admirable ambition. Research has been done that shows practical support of, and outreach to, mothers/fathers from parentally skilled sources is worth funding.

The consequences to the health of our nation, individually and as a whole, are influenced by funding that promotes strong family structures. Any proposals that can influence these structures- as the proposed bill will- require a thorough and rigorous appraisal.

Thankyou