

## **Motion: Supporting People with Disabilities & Carers**

That Dáil Éireann:

Notes that:

- The State signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007 and ratified the Convention in 2018, but has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol;
- More than 1 in 8 people over the age of 15 provide care with approximately 500,000 family carers in the State, and that the majority experience barriers accessing respite services;
- The Programme for Government commitment update the National Carers' Strategy remains unfulfilled; and
- The Programme for Government commitment to provide for a statutory home care scheme remains unfulfilled; and

Further notes:

- The publication of the Disability Services Action Plan 2024-26; and
- The publication of the Roadmap for Service Improvement for Disability Services for Children and Young People; and

Considers that:

- waiting lists for disability services are far too long, where they are maintained, and that personal assistance services are far too limited;
- the €55.6 million in additional new development funding which was provided for disability services in Budget 2024 is not adequate to deliver the measures contained in the Disability Services Action Plan; and
- Financial supports for people with disabilities and family carers are inadequate and fail minimum essential standards of living tests; and

Recognises the immense contribution to the common good of the unpaid work of family carers; and

Restates its commitment to supporting the fullest possible independent participation of people with disabilities in our society; and

Condemns the Government for its failure to introduce an updated Carers' Strategy and its failure to modernise the provision of home support and personal assistance services for people with disabilities; and

calls on the Government to:

- Deliver rights-based access to care for people with disabilities;
- Set a date for the ratification of the UNCRPD Optional Protocol;
- Outline a multi-annual funding plan for delivering the Disability Action Plan, and in particular extending independent living supports, access to therapies, and availability of respite services;

- Increase access to services such as home support, personal assistance, day services, therapies, and community services for people with disabilities;
- Introduce a comprehensive rights-based charter for family carers and update the carers' strategy to provide the necessary steps across all departments and in order to deliver the rights in the charter.
- Directly support carers through increased provision of respite services;
- Relax the Carer's Allowance means test and increase disability allowance, invalidity pension, illness benefit, carer's allowance and benefit, and the annual carer's support grant; and
- Invest in Special Education and extend the fund for students with disabilities across Further Education and Training.