

Anthony STAINES

Independent candidate for Seanad Éireann Trinity panel

Professor of Health Systems, DCU



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Dear TCD graduate,

I am running for the Seanad on the Trinity panel, and I would appreciate your support. There is a very strong field of candidates, but I believe I have something to offer, and I'm asking for your first preference vote. My key aim is to work for a human rights based approach to health and social services, including disability support services, and mental health.

My priorities

- A better, fairer, sustainable health service, with universal health care
- Better lives for our children and young people
- Better lives, and better services, for those with disabilities
- Protecting and strengthening higher education
- More accountability in public life and public service
- Effective Seanad reform

I'm a doctor (TCD 1984), living in Skerries, north County Dublin. I'm married to Una (Microbiology 1984), who is a science teacher. I trained in the old Adelaide hospital, and then in paediatrics in Dublin. We moved to the UK, and I trained in public health in Yorkshire. We came back to Ireland in the late '90s, like so many others. We have two children, one still at school, and one now studying in Trinity. Since then I've worked in the universities, first in UCD, and, since 2007, in DCU, where I am the first Professor of health systems. Most of my work is on health policy and healthcare funding; child and adolescent health; or autism and intellectual disability.

I've done a lot of work for the Irish government and HSE over the years. Most recently I worked on a desperately needed information and IT strategy for our health service.

I've volunteered with many groups, including Special Olympics Ireland, at the World Games in Dublin, and many community groups, helping them respond constructively to the health impacts of planned major developments. I've volunteered on several boards, including the Higher Education Authority, and the Health Insurance Authority. Currently I chair two, the Irish Blood Transfusion Service, and Quality Matters, a small NGO, which supports other charities giving social care to people with drug, alcohol or mental health problems.

I'm an activist, as well as a researcher. Over the years, I've taken part in public debates and discussions about healthcare quality, alcohol, tobacco, obesity, primary care, health funding, and other health topics. I worked for the Yes side in the 2015 marriage equality referendum.

I know the limited powers of the Seanad, and I understand how to work with others to influence change. Since the Seanad was set up in 1922, the Trinity senators have been voices for progress in Ireland. If you choose to elect me, I will be the same.

Yours sincerely,

PS Ballot papers will be posted to you on March 21st, and you have to fill it in and post it back, on or before April 22nd, to be sure of being counted.

Professor Anthony STAINES

Independent Seanad candidate

Disability

- Too many people, and families, affected by disabilities are failed by our system
- This is unfair, wasteful and costly
- We need a rights based approach to disability, backed by the UN Convention
- We need decent client centred services and supports

Contact Details

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Sustainable Health Care

- Irish health care is expensive, and in permanent crisis.
- Services need to be more efficient and of higher quality
- We need to work out a common vision for our health services
- I support a system based on a right to healthcare, providing care in our communities, urban and rural
- I support freely accessible, but properly resourced GP care for all families.

Higher Education

- Higher and further education are both critical for the future of Ireland
- As a former member of the Higher Education Authority, and a senior academic, I know our system very well
- I argue for a fairly funded, autonomous and accountable education system, affordable to all, and fit for a modern society
- Our universities matter to all of us, and need to be safeguarded

About me

- From Skerries, North County Dublin
- Doctor, academic, and writer
- Active in political and social reform movements in Ireland
- Works in School of Nursing in Dublin City University
- An experienced director, with a good working knowledge of financial management and health economics
- Rights based approach to health, and children's lives
- Committed to reducing obesity and overweight in Irish children and adults
- Committed to better use of modern information systems in the public services – big potential for job creation in Ireland
- Committed to effective action on climate change – Ireland could and should be a world leader here

Housing, homelessness, and the environment

- Too many families are homeless, or in unsustainable housing. Only a large scale program of building social and affordable accommodation can fix this.
- It is increasingly difficult for young people to find accommodation. Special measures need to be taken to support young people setting up their own homes, whether as tenants or purchasers.
- Ireland needs a proper environmentally sustainable program of housing, covering both where housing is built, and how it is built, with much higher standards of energy efficiency in our housing.
- Irish public transport needs serious planning and investment.