



Anthony Staines

Independent candidate for Seanad Éireann, Trinity panel

Professor of Health Systems, DCU

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Dear graduate,

I am running, as an independent candidate, for Seanad Éireann on the Trinity panel, and I am looking for your support, and your first preference vote. It will be a tough election, going up against three sitting senators, and I will need all the votes I can.

I am a medical graduate (TCD 1984), who originally trained in child health, and then trained in public health in Yorkshire and London. I now work as an academic in Dublin. My day job is as the Professor of Health systems in DCU. I live in Skerries, in North County Dublin. I'm married to Una (Microbiology 1984), who is a science teacher.

One of the interesting parts of being an Irish Senator, is that your constituents live in many countries. I'm of the view that the Republic, like most other European countries, should have a more formal role for citizens living overseas in our elections. The Seanad is now the only part of the Irish system, where non-residents get a vote. It could be an example for a wider franchise. As part of my own campaign, I've been to meet graduates in the North of Ireland, England and Scotland. If you choose to elect me, I will be available, I will listen carefully to you, and I will come to meet with you.

The close, friendly, links between the Republic and the UK matter to us in the Republic, and while our friendship is not in doubt, there may be some practical challenges, depending on the outcome of your referendum. Having lived in the UK for nine years, with two Yorkshire born children, I am very conscious of the importance of this. I am personally pro-European, but the choice is for people in the UK to make in June of this year. If I am elected, and if the vote is to leave the EU, I will do whatever I can to strengthen and sustain our links.

I'm running for three main reasons.

I. The Irish health services are facing huge difficulties. I'm a health policy expert, with experience of the NHS and the Irish system, and a good knowledge of many other health systems. Good decisions will be needed over the next few years, if we are to have affordable and sustainable health services. I've reviewed the health policies of the Irish parties recently, and most do not address the big problems facing us. If I'm elected I will argue for a fair, but adequately funded, patient centred health service. The NHS, for all its difficulties, is a better model of care than the current Irish system.

NOMINATORS

Joe Barry

Prof of Public Health TCD

John Hennessy

Outgoing chair of HEA/
Businessman

ASSENTORS

Des Higgins

Prof of Genetics UCD

Anne Hickey

Prof of Psychology RCSI

Louis Brennan

Head of Business School TCD

Des O'Neill

Prof of Gerontology TCD

Jane Farrar

Prof of Genetics, TCD

Paul Browne

Dean of Medical School, TCD

Mark Sanfey

Senior Counsel

Clive Lee

Prof of Anatomy RCSI

Hospital care matters, and as a transplant recipient, I know how much it matters, but I think general practice must be at the heart of the health services. I believe that we need to move steadily to universal health care, over a number of years. I have a lot of political and policy experience, and I think I can contribute.

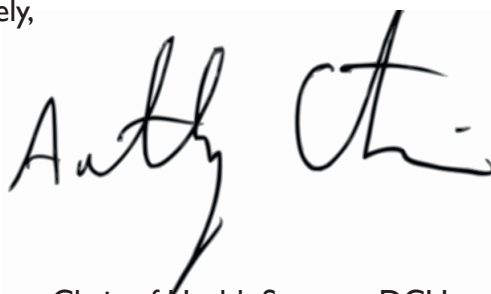
2. I will work for better services and better quality of life for children, young adults, those with disabilities, and other relatively marginalized groups. I started my medical career in paediatrics, and I've worked on child health, in Ireland, England and Europe since. I've also done work with those affected by autism and by intellectual disability, and other marginalized groups, such as Travellers, the homeless, and migrants. I take a rights based view on health and social services.

3. I will push for the development of high quality, sustainable, and accessible higher education system to meet the needs of Ireland. I was on the Irish Higher Education Authority, who fund and regulate the sector, (quite like HEFCE in the UK), until I stepped down to run for the Seanad. I'm very aware of the

I have other useful experience. I chair the Irish Blood Transfusion Service, and serve on the board of Quality Matters, a not-for-profit management consultancy for the charity sector. I have served on the boards of the Irish Higher Education Authority, and the Irish Health Insurance Authority (all pro bono). I have a strong track record of activism, engaged research and writing, and public service.

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,



Anthony Staines, Chair of Health Systems, DCU.

PS Ballot papers will be posted to you, at this address, 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.

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