

## DRAFT LETTER TO EDITORS OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL PAPERS

### **DON'T BLOCK THIS BILL**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to highlight my concern at the lack of interest or concern shown by the Government on the issue of pension rights for older people. There is a Private Members Bill before the DAIL since 2021, which would give legal rights and a voice to older people in relation to their occupational pension. This would be through the WRC.

The situation at present means the income of retired pensioners, can be reduced without ANY consultation or engagement with them. Occupational pension payments are deferred pay cheques for employees who were instructed, by many employers, Aer Lingus, RTE, and ESB to name a few, to join the company-sponsored scheme as a condition of employment. A form of auto-enrolment of its day.

There has been no options or alternatives proposed by the Government to address their concerns relating to this Bill, although they accept, the current situation is unfair to older people.

The proposed Bill has passed Stage One and Two and now moving to Stage three. It is now with the Bills Office to ascertain if it needs a "Money Message" since November 2025. For many pensioners, they believe that the Money message will be used to 'block the Bill' as has happened to many private member's bills in the past.

We are calling on the Government and opposition parties who fully support this Bill, to urge its progress through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage.

Yours Sincerely,

Pat Mellon

CEO

Irish Senior Citizens Parliament.

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