

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Paid Parental Leave
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I am opposed to cuts in paid parental leave due to my professional experience as a psychologist. I work with multiple women who have elected to be stay at home parents. By reducing financial benefits to mothers (the primary receivers of paid parental leave), there is a significantly greater risk of financial disparity between partners. Very often this financial disparity is abused by partners resulting in financial abuse and other forms of family violence. The argument that couples should and do manage finances together and equally does not always translate into reality. Lack of financial resources is a huge contributing factor to mothers staying in abusive relationships. This results in children being exposed to family violence. If we take measures to ensure that women have access to financial means, we can reduce the risk of family violence.

Research also suggests that women prioritise their spending on families whereas men are more likely to withhold from distributing wealth equally. If we support women with parental payments, we have a better chance of ensuring that children's needs are met.

Personally, without adequate paid parental leave AND cheap and available childcare I have very grave concerns about my financial security when I have children. Particularly when my workplace sector relies on fixed term contracts which leave women in very vulnerable positions if their contract expires when they are in the later part of their pregnancies (and therefore showing). I feel to vulnerable to ask workplaces about my maternity leave options as I do not have job security.