An tAire Ruairí Quinn, TD,
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna,
Sráid Mhaoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

A Aire, a chara,

Táim ag scríobh chugat maidir leis an dréacht-bhille atá á ullmhú agat chun rialachán a chur faoin gcleachtas iontrála i scoileanna. Is mian liom mo bhuairt a chur in iúl faoi chur chuige aonchineálach nach dtógann cosaint sainmheon teanga na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge san áireamh.

In aon rialachán nua, iarrann pobal na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge:-

1. Go dtabharfar feidhm dlíthiúil do ghealltanais an Straitéis 20 Bliain agus Ráiteas an Rialtais i leith na Gaeilge, 2006, agus go dtiocfaidh aon pholasaí nua leis an bpolasaí seo: *Cuirfear oideachas lán-Ghaeilge ar ardchaighdeán ar fáil do dhaltaí arb é mian a dtuismitheoirí/gcaomhnóirí é. Leanfar leis an tacaíocht do Ghaelscoileanna ag leibhéal na bunscoile agus déanfar forbairt ar sholáthar lán-Ghaeilge ag leibhéal na h-iarbhunscoile chun freastal ar éileamh de réir mar is gá.*

2. Go ndéanfar soláthar ceart don scolaíocht lán-Ghaeilge, chun go mbeidh scoileanna in ann fíor-rogha a thairiscint dá gcuid pobail agus nach mbeidh páistí á ndiúltú nó faoi bhrú freastal ar scoil lán-Bhéarla.

3. Go n-aithneofar tábhacht na héagsúlachta trí shainmheon teanga na scoileanna a chosaint.

4. Go ndéanfar saintréithe an chórais gaelscolaíochta a chosaint trí aon reachtaíocht nua chun leas caomhnú agus forbairt na Gaeilge sa Stát.

5. Nach ndéanfar leithcheal ar theaghlaigh a thógann a bpáistí le Gaeilge, ná teaghlaigh atá tiomanta do chaomhnú na teanga trí áit i scoil lán-Ghaeilge a shéanadh orthu.

6. Nach ndéanfar leithcheal ar theaghlaigh i gceantair nach bhfuil scoil lán-Ghaeilge ann trí

A Aire, a chara,

I am writing to you regarding the draft bill which is being prepared on regulation of school entry policies. I wish to express my concerns about the creation of a homogenous entry policy that fails to provide protection for Irish-medium schools' language ethos.

In any new regulation, the Irish-medium school community requests:-

1. That the 20 Year Strategy and the Government's Statement on the Irish Language , 2006, be given legal standing, and that any new policy will be in agreement with said policy: *A high standard of all-Irish education will be provided to school students whose parents/guardians so wish. Gaelscoileanna will continue to be supported at primary level and all-Irish provision at post-primary level will be developed to meet follow-on demand.*

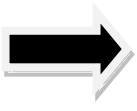
2. That proper provision shall be made for all-Irish education; that schools will be able to offer a genuine choice to their communities, and that children shall not be refused, or under pressure to attend an English-language school.

3. That the importance of diversity be recognised through the protection of the schools' language ethos.

4. That the characteristics of the Irish-medium system be protected through any new legislation, with the aim of preservation and development of the Irish language in the State.

5. That families raising children through Irish, and families devoted to the preservation of the language, shall not be discriminated against through having a place in an Irish-medium school denied to them.

6. That families in an area with no Irish-medium school provision shall not be discriminated



cosc a chur orthu taisteal chuig an scoil lán-Ghaeilge is gaire dóibh.

7. Go n-aithneofar gur mionlach fíor-bheag iad teaghlaigh lán-Ghaeilge sa chóras, a bhfuil tacaíocht an Stáit dlite dóibh i rogha gaeloideachais a bpáistí.

8. Go n-aithneofar gur córas roghnach, oscailte agus cuimsitheach é córas na scolaíochta lán-Ghaeilge ina bhfáiltítear roimh pháistí ó gach cineál cúlra.

Molaimid

a. Go mbeidh sé de cheart ag scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge rogha a bheadh acu tús áite a thabhairt do pháistí theaghlaigh lán-Ghaeilge ina bpróiseas rollaithe.

b. Go mbeidh sé de cheart ag iarbhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge tús áite a thabhairt do pháistí a d'fhreastail ar bhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge os rud é go bhfuil taithí acu ar an bhfoghlaim trí Ghaeilge agus bunús na teanga acu do na hábhair churaclaim éagsúla

c. Go mbeidh dáta comónta ar fud na tíre le páistí a chlárú ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go mbeidh achar ama ceart ag scoileanna tuiscint a fháil ar aon seirbhísí nó acmhainní breise a bheidh de dhíth mar thacaíocht do riachtanas gach páiste.

d. Go mbeidh cur chuige comhordaithe ar bhonn ceantair idir scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge in áiteanna a bhfuil rogha de níos mó ná scoil lán-Ghaeilge amháin ann.

e. Go mbeidh lár-ionad eolais ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na gcomhairlí contae faoi shaintréithe gach cineál scoile atá ar fáil le cabhrú le tuismitheoirí rogha údarásach a dhéanamh maidir le hoideachas a bpáistí

Against by being prevented from travelling to the nearest Irish-medium school.

7. That it be recognised that all-Irish-speaking households are an extremely small minority and that they are entitled to State support in their choice of Irish medium education.

8. That it be recognised that the Irish-medium schooling system is a voluntary, open, and comprehensive system, into which children of all backgrounds are welcomed.

We recommend

a. That Irish-medium schools shall have the right to choose to give priority to children from Irish-speaking households in their enrolment process.

b. That Irish-medium post-primary schools shall have the right to give priority to children who attended an Irish-medium primary school, as they have experience in learning through Irish, and have a linguistic base for the various curriculum subjects.

c. A common date on a national level to register children, to ensure that schools have an appropriate time span to assess any services or extra resources that may be needed to support the needs of each child.

d. A co-ordinated approach on a regional basis between Irish-medium schools in areas where there is more than one Irish-medium school.

e. That a central database be available on county council websites, presenting the defining characteristics of each kind of school available, to help parents make an authoritative choice about their children's education.

Ainm:_____

Seoladh:_____

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