

32 TDs vote against Repeal

Thirty two TDs have voted in the Dáil against legislation that allows a referendum on abortion to be held.

The preliminary stage of the Thirty Sixth Amendment to the Constitution Bill was passed by 110 votes to 32 and now goes to committee stage, which will be taken later this evening.

32 TDs that Voted against holding referendum:

Aylward, Bobby.	Fitzmaurice, Michael.	Moynihan, Aindrias.
Barrett, Seán.	Fitzpatrick, Peter.	Murphy O'Mahony, Margaret.
Breathnach, Declan.	Gallagher, Pat The Cope.	Murphy, Eugene.
Butler, Mary.	Grealish, Noel.	Nolan, Carol.
Cahill, Jackie.	Haughey, Seán.	O'Keeffe, Kevin.
Canney, Seán.	Healy-Rae, Danny.	O'Rourke, Frank.
Casey, Pat.	Healy-Rae, Michael.	Ó Cuív, Éamon.
Cassells, Shane.	Lowry, Michael.	Scanlon, Eamon.
Chambers, Jack.	MacSharry, Marc.	Smith, Brendan.
Collins, Michael.	McGrath, Mattie.	Smyth, Niamh.
Curran, John.	McGuinness, John.	

Twenty one of Fianna Fáil's 44 TDs voted against the legislation while just two Fine Gael TDs opposed the measure - Peter Fitzpatrick from Louth and Dún Laoghaire TD Sean Barrett. Fianna Fáil was rather evenly split, with 20 TDs voting in favour and 21 voting against the bill.

Sinn Féin TD Carol Nolan was the only party member to oppose the legislation, contrary to its stated view on the Bill. Ms Nolan has been suspended from the party for three months.

Meath West TD Peadar Tóibín who opposes repeal, was not present for the vote but is understood to have informed the party whip that he would be unable to attend. Independent Alliance TD Sean Canney also opposed the legislation.

Freedom of conscience

Fianna Fáil members have freedom of conscience on the issue of abortion, meaning each member can vote in accordance with their own view. Party leader Micheál Martin, however, is supporting repeal and allowing for terminations up to 12 weeks even though the majority of his party does not support the proposition. The party's ard fheis voted in favour of Fianna Fáil adopting a anti-abortion position.

Earlier on Wednesday, Taoiseach [Leo Varadkar](#) said the Government will respect the result of the May abortion referendum.

“If the referendum is passed, I hope people will respect that,” he added. “If the referendum is defeated, the Government will respect that decision and will not bring forward a proposal for a new referendum during the period of this Government.”