

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WALSH MOORE.

3001H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, a century ago, in October 1924, Ireland formally opened diplomatic
3 relations with the United States of America when Timothy Smiddy presented his credentials
4 to President Calvin Coolidge. Following the Irish people's long and painful struggle for
5 independence, the U.S. was one of the first nations to recognize the fledgling Irish state
6 earlier that year, and when Smiddy emerged from the White House, he had become Ireland's
7 first Ambassador to any country in the world. It was very appropriate that Ireland's first
8 representative overseas should be dispatched to Washington, D.C. for, while 1924 marked the
9 beginning of formal diplomatic relations, the deep Irish-American connection dated back
10 centuries; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, today, nearly one-tenth of Americans identify as being of Irish ancestry.
12 Irish immigrants helped build the America we know today, not only the physical
13 infrastructure from the skyscrapers of Manhattan to the transcontinental railroad, but also
14 the political construct that is America; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, Irish people have made an enormous contribution to public debate and
17 politics in America, from their local communities right up to the White House. More than
18 twenty American Presidents claimed some Irish ancestry. But the influence of Irish America
19 extends well beyond the Oval Office and the Capitol building, to every state within the Union,
20 most evident in the significant number of state legislators within the American Irish State
21 Legislators Caucus; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, since Timothy Smiddy's momentous audience in the Oval Office 100
24 years ago, a further eighteen Irish Ambassadors have presented credentials to U.S. Presidents.
25 Over this time, Ireland's relations with the United States have evolved significantly. From an
26 impoverished and internationally isolated state, scarred by years of conflict, Ireland has

27 transformed over the past century. Ireland today is at peace, economically prosperous, and
28 culturally vibrant; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, this transformation is due to the support of friends in the United States,
31 from the crucial role America played in brokering peace in Northern Ireland, culminating
32 with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to the huge American economic investment in
33 Ireland. There are almost one thousand U.S. companies in Ireland, employing over two
34 hundred thousand people directly. Our economic relationship is truly two-way; some one
35 hundred thousand people are employed in the U.S. by over 650 Irish-owned companies,
36 across all fifty states. Indeed, Ireland is now the ninth largest source of foreign direct
37 investment in the U.S.; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the U.S.-Irish relationship is a shining example of how ancestral ties,
40 historical connections, cultural affinities, and shared values can create a foundation for
41 enduring partnership and mutual prosperity. Irish American state legislators across the United
42 States are playing a vitally important role in fostering this partnership and ensuring that it
43 continues and flourishes for another century to come:

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45 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
46 Representatives of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the
47 Senate concurring therein, hereby recognize and celebrate the special relationship between
48 the United States and Ireland; and

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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
51 be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the American Irish
52 State Legislators Caucus.

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