

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the government of the United States of America to immediately take all appropriate steps to assist in the unification of Ireland.

WHEREAS, Ireland is an ancient and distinct island-nation that was artificially partitioned by the United Kingdom with the Government of Ireland Act, 1920; and

WHEREAS, the partition divided the nation into Northern Ireland, which is composed of six counties and is one of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom, and Southern Ireland, which would eventually become the Republic of Ireland, and which consists of the remaining twenty-six counties; and

WHEREAS, negotiated with American support, the Belfast Agreement, commonly known as the Good Friday Agreement, was ratified by the Irish and British governments on April 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement represents a fundamental political advance that created a framework and a mechanism for further political development toward the final resolution of the issue and reunification; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to end the partition of Ireland in favor of a united, sovereign nation that guarantees equal rights and equal opportunities for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in every area that affects the life and well-being of the Irish people, including economy, education, health, governance, and social interaction, a united Ireland offers the best opportunity for peace and prosperity for the Irish nation and its people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge the government of the United States of America to immediately take all appropriate steps to assist and encourage the governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to achieve a united Ireland as envisioned and called for in the Good Friday

Agreement; does hereby encourage the Republic of Ireland to formally study the implications of a united Ireland, outline the steps necessary for reunification, and report those findings to the public; and does hereby look forward with eagerness and excitement to the day of unification of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Louisiana Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE