

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take whatever actions necessary to encourage and support the reunification of Ireland.

WHEREAS, Ireland is an ancient and distinct land, an island-nation artificially rendered in two in 1922; partitioned by the Government of Ireland Act as an independent Irish state and Northern Ireland which remained a dominion of the United Kingdom; 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 British Crown, and Southern Ireland, which consists of the remaining twenty-six counties and which eventually became the Republic of Ireland in 1949; and

WHEREAS, the Belfast Agreement, also known as the Good Friday Agreement, was ratified by the Irish and British governments on April 10, 1998, and was successfully negotiated with support from the United States; 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, today with self determination, the Irish Republic enjoys an unencumbered economic future as a viable member of the European Union; and

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

WHEREAS, in every area that affects the overall well-being of the Irish people, including their economy, education, health, governance, and social interaction, a united Ireland proffers the best opportunity for peace and prosperity for a divided Irish population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take whatever actions necessary to encourage and support the reunification of Ireland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES