



HR0387

LRB101 12482 MST 60692 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The 1998 Good Friday Agreement between the Irish Government and the British Government provides that the British Government should enact legislation defining rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) that, together with the ECHR, are to constitute "a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland"; and

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WHEREAS, The Good Friday Agreement provides that the British Government will "take resolute action to promote ... facilitate and encourage the use of" the Irish language; and

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WHEREAS, The 2006 St. Andrews Agreement between the Irish Government and the British Government provides that "The [British] Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language"; and

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WHEREAS, The British Government agreed in the 2014 Stormont House Agreement between the Irish Government and the British Government to provide up to £150M to fund inquests on legacy killings; and

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WHEREAS, The commitment in the Stormont House Agreement to

1 fund inquests on legacy killings was reaffirmed in the 2015
2 Fresh Start Agreement between the Irish Government and the
3 British Government; and

4 WHEREAS, The Good Friday Agreement provides that it is for
5 a majority of people from Northern Ireland to determine whether
6 they should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form
7 part of a united Ireland; and

8 WHEREAS, The British Government has not enacted a Bill of
9 Rights for the North of Ireland in the twenty-year period since
10 the Good Friday Agreement was agreed; and

11 WHEREAS, The British Government has not enacted an Irish
12 Language Act to ensure full statutory equality for the Irish
13 language nor taken resolute action to promote, facilitate, or
14 encourage the use of the Irish Language; and

15 WHEREAS, The British Government has not funded or held
16 inquests into the killings of hundreds of civilians during the
17 conflict; and

18 WHEREAS, The British Government has not held a poll or
19 referendum on a united Ireland at any time during the
20 twenty-year period since the Good Friday Agreement was agreed;
21 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we strongly support and endorse the Martin McGuinness
4 Principles calling for Equality, Respect, Truth, and
5 Self-Determination for the North of Ireland; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the four principles of the Martin McGuinness
7 Principles should be met without further delay by the enactment
8 of a Bill of Rights for the North of Ireland, the enactment of
9 an Irish Language Act, the release of funds to undertake
10 inquests regarding legacy killings, and the holding of a
11 referendum to determine if a majority of voters desire the
12 North of Ireland to become a united Ireland; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That it is for the people of the island of
14 Ireland alone, by agreement between North and South and without
15 external impediment, to exercise their right of
16 self-determination on the basis of consent; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we call on the United States Congress to
18 adopt a resolution endorsing the Martin McGuinness Principles;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives and
21 its members are encouraged to publicize and promote the Martin

1 McGuinness Principles to the extent deemed appropriate.