

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 555

Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SWEENEY, and Mr. PAYNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998, in Belfast, was endorsed in a referendum by the overwhelming majority of people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland;

Whereas the parties to the Good Friday Agreement made a clear commitment to “partnership, equality, and mutual respect” as the basis for moving forward in pursuit of lasting peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the parties to the Good Friday Agreement also affirmed their “total and absolute commitment to exclu-

sively democratic and peaceful means” in pursuit of lasting peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas inclusive power-sharing based on these defining qualities is essential to the viability and advancement of the democratic process in Northern Ireland;

Whereas paramilitary activity by both traditions in a democratic society undermines the trust and confidence that are essential in a political system based on inclusive power-sharing in Northern Ireland;

Whereas on September 26, 2005, the International Independent Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) confirmed the Irish Republican Army had destroyed its full arsenal of weapons;

Whereas the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland continue to strongly support the Good Friday Agreement as the way forward in the peace process and have committed themselves to its implementation; and

Whereas the Government of the United States continues to strongly support the peace process in Northern Ireland:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) reiterates its support for the Good Friday Agreement as the blueprint for a lasting
4 peace in Northern Ireland;

5 (B) commends the Prime Minister of the
6 United Kingdom Tony Blair and the Irish
7 Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for their leadership and
8

1 persistence in seeing to a peaceful resolution in
2 Northern Ireland;

3 (C) commends the Sinn Fein leadership in
4 successfully urging the Irish Republican Army
5 to end its armed struggle and verifiably put its
6 weapons beyond use; and

7 (D) commends the leadership of Sir Hugh
8 S. Orde, Chief Constable of the Police Service
9 of Northern Ireland; and

10 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
11 tives that—

12 (A) all groups and organizations should
13 end their involvement in paramilitary activity;

14 (B) all political parties in Northern Ireland
15 should—

16 (i) agree to share power with all par-
17 ties according to the democratic mandate
18 of the Good Friday Agreement;

19 (ii) commit to work in good faith with
20 all the institutions of the Good Friday
21 Agreement, which established the Northern
22 Ireland Assembly and an inclusive Execu-
23 tive, the North-South Ministerial Council,
24 and the British-Irish Inter-Governmental

1 Conference, for the benefit of all the people
2 of Northern Ireland; and
3 (iii) work toward participating with
4 the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and
5 (C) the Government of the United King-
6 dom and the Government of Ireland should
7 work to achieve full implementation of the Good
8 Friday Agreement, including devolution of po-
9 licing and justice as well as normalization of the
10 security presence.

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