

Testimony -- SCR 4015
House Political Subdivisions Committee
Senator Kathy Hogan
March 9, 2023

Chairman Longmuir and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan and I represent District 21 which is central Fargo with a corner of West Fargo.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4015 comes to you because of a St. Patrick's Day email sent to all seated legislators in the US in 2020 from Mark Daly, President of the Irish Senate, wishing us a happy St. Patrick's Day. Being a bit of an Irish girl married to a definite Irish man, I sent a reply to Mr. Daly and within two hours he had personally called my home to talk. Over the next several weeks we discussed forming a chapter of the American Irish Caucus in North Dakota. Over the last two years, we have had 10 ND legislators participate in this national group, primarily at CSG and NCSL meetings to discuss ways of improving cooperation and understanding between Ireland and the US both at the federal level and at the state- level.

You may not know the history of the Irish in ND, but it started during the great settlement period of history (1850 – 1920). A small, but strong community of

Scotch-Irish-English background played an especially influential role, contributing many of North Dakota's early business and political leaders. Towns like Kenmare, Bantry and Fargo have especially strong Irish roots.

Most of the early priests and Bishops in eastern ND in the Catholic Church came from Ireland. Those Bishops helped bring the Irish Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mother or the Fargo Presentation Sisters to ND in 1862. Those Sisters then started or bought and managed 5 hospitals throughout ND and 11 Catholic Schools in ND.

This resolution recognizes one of important peace agreements that has effectively ended a 300-hundred-year conflict between the British and the Irish. The Good Friday Accord is celebrating its' 25th anniversary this year. The framework for that agreement has resulted in the building of new trusted relations and negotiations that are still on-going about possible unification of Ireland.

This resolution is important to all North Dakotans with Irish heritage both Catholic and Protestant because we have come to understand that peace is possible.

Please vote aye on this resolution.