

**Testimony**  
**SCR 4015**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**February 7, 2023**

Chairman Elkin and members of the Education 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 all seated legislators in the US received 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 to 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 in eastern ND and Bishops 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 the important peace agreements that have effectively ended a 300-year conflict between the British and the Irish. The Good Friday Accord is celebrating its' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The framework for that agreement has resulted in the building of trusted relations and negotiations are still on-going about the 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.