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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 69 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY BOYLE, BRENNAN, MALAGARI, HOHENSTEIN, VENKAT,  
PIELLI, SANCHEZ, HADDOCK, BELLMON, KHAN, CIRESI, McANDREW AND  
ROZZI, APRIL 10, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 10, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Reaffirming support for the Good Friday agreement and subsequent  
2 agreements that assert the primacy of diplomacy, democracy  
3 and the rule of law over conflict, threat and rule breaking  
4 and urging the General Assembly to reaffirm the support for  
5 these agreements.

6 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the  
7 Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday  
8 Agreement; and

9 WHEREAS, On May 22, 1998, the agreement was endorsed by the  
10 vast majority of citizens voting in simultaneous referendums in  
11 Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; and

12 WHEREAS, The Good Friday Agreement and the will of the people  
13 brought to an end the longest period of conflict in Irish  
14 history and delivered 25 years of relative peace; and

15 WHEREAS, As per the Good Friday Agreement, it is for the  
16 people of the "island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the  
17 two parts respectively and without external impediment, to  
18 exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of  
19 consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to

1 bring about a united Ireland if that is their wish, accepting  
2 that this right must be achieved and exercised with and subject  
3 to the agreement and consent of a majority of the people of  
4 Northern Ireland" as provided for in referendums; and

5 WHEREAS, The Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreement  
6 "reaffirms a total and absolute commitment to exclusively  
7 democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences on  
8 political issues, and opposition to any use or threat of force  
9 by others" and "support of the rule of law"; and

10 WHEREAS, The Good Friday Agreement established power sharing  
11 and partnership government in Northern Ireland, as part of an  
12 interlocking and interdependent set of institutions, between  
13 North Ireland and South Ireland and between the Island of  
14 Ireland and Britain; and

15 WHEREAS, The incorporation into law of the European  
16 Convention of Human Rights in an explicit commitment of the  
17 agreement is the obligation at this time of the British  
18 government to exercise its power "with rigorous impartiality on  
19 behalf of all the people in the diversity of their identities  
20 and traditions and shall be founded on the principles of full  
21 respect for, and equality of, civil, political, social and  
22 cultural rights, of freedom from discrimination for all  
23 citizens, and of parity of esteem and of just and equal  
24 treatment for the identity, ethos, and aspirations of both  
25 communities" as per the Good Friday Agreement; and

26 WHEREAS, In the subsequent Stormont House Agreement both  
27 governments agreed to the following principles:

28 (1) to reconcile the consequences of past conflict with  
29 a shared future;

30 (2) promoting reconciliation;

- 1 (3) upholding the rule of law;
- 2 (4) acknowledging and addressing the suffering of  
3 victims and survivors;
- 4 (5) facilitating the pursuit of justice and information  
5 recovery; and
- 6 (6) is human rights compliant and is balanced,  
7 proportionate, transparent, fair and equitable;
- 8 and

9 WHEREAS, Progress and agreements have been made through a  
10 multilateral approach between both governments and all parties  
11 with the support of the United States government, political  
12 representatives and civic leaders; and

13 WHEREAS, The failure to honor agreements and respect  
14 commitments and law is a fundamental breach and an undermining  
15 of the political process; and

16 WHEREAS, Respecting the right of the British government to  
17 leave the European Union, the exercise of that right has  
18 resulted in challenges to the operation and implementation of  
19 the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements; and

20 WHEREAS, The British government's Northern Ireland Trouble  
21 (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill is a unilateral action that is  
22 opposed by the Irish government, all parties and victims groups,  
23 is a direct contravention of the Stormont House Agreement and  
24 inconsistent with the human rights commitments of the Good  
25 Friday Agreement and has been described as fatally flawed by the  
26 government-appointed Human Rights Commissioner; and

27 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives values the special  
28 relationship, bound by history and kinship with Britain and  
29 Ireland, and supports the continued progress, peace and  
30 prosperity in Ireland; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives reaffirm support  
2 for the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements that  
3 assert the primacy of diplomacy, democracy and the rule of law  
4 over conflict, threat and rule breaking and urge the General  
5 Assembly to reaffirm the support for these agreements; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives reaffirm and urge  
8 the General Assembly to:

9           (1) urge all participants to the Good Friday Agreement  
10 and subsequent agreements to honor and exercise their  
11 obligations to those agreements, including the re-  
12 establishment and functioning of the institutions of the  
13 agreements;

14           (2) urge the British government to withdraw the fatally  
15 flawed Northern Ireland Trouble (Legacy and Reconciliation)  
16 Bill and honor its agreement from January 2020 to legislate  
17 for the Stormont House Agreement within 100 days;

18           (3) express support in the ongoing search for agreement  
19 on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol to  
20 prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland and promote  
21 prosperity;

22           (4) recognize that it is for the people of Ireland to  
23 determine their constitutional future in referendums as  
24 provided for in the Good Friday Agreement free from threat  
25 and the democratic outcome of referendums be respected by  
26 all;

27           (5) support the cause of peace, prosperity and progress  
28 in Northern Ireland and continue to review the implementation  
29 of agreements; and

30           (6) insist that any new or future trade agreements and

1 other bilateral agreements between the government of the  
2 United States and the government of the United Kingdom  
3 include a report on the implementation of the Good Friday  
4 Agreement and subsequent agreements and that all obligations  
5 on the United Kingdom's government with regard to these  
6 agreements are met.