

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 22, 2018

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**FRIENDS OF IRELAND STATEMENT ENCOURAGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO NAME SPECIAL ENVOY TO NORTHERN IRELAND**

(WASHINGTON) The bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus in the United States House of Representatives released the following statement today urging President Donald Trump to honor the commitment he made in September 2017 and appoint a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. With the breakdown of talks in Belfast last week aimed at restoring the power-sharing institutions, the members of the caucus believe it is the appropriate time for renewed U.S. engagement in the region. Please find their complete statement below.

**“With the breakdown of cross-party talks in Belfast last week aimed at restoring the power-sharing institutions, we once again urge President Trump to name a new Special Envoy to Northern Ireland at the earliest possible opportunity. Since January 2017, the devolved government at Stormont has been suspended and many important decisions about the future of the jurisdiction have been put on hold. While we remain hopeful that an accommodation between the political parties can still be reached, the appointment of a Special Envoy would help prevent further instability and send a strong message around the world that the United States remains fully engaged in the region.**

**As we recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement this year, the United States must continue to play a meaningful role on the island of Ireland in order to ensure that all aspects of that landmark peace accord are implemented in full. Our contribution to the peace process has been described as indispensable on both sides of the Atlantic. And with efforts to restore devolution at an impasse, we believe a U.S. Special Envoy could make an important contribution to those negotiations, just as Senator George Mitchell did two decades ago.**

**As members of the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus in the United States Congress, we were encouraged by President Trump’s comments at the White House in September 2017 that he would not eliminate this important position. At this critical time in the effort to restore power-sharing in Belfast, we believe it is the ideal time for him to name a new envoy.”**

Richard E. Neal  
Massachusetts 1<sup>st</sup>

Frank Pallone, Jr  
New Jersey 6<sup>th</sup>

Peter King  
New York 2<sup>nd</sup>

Eliot Engel  
New York 16<sup>th</sup>

John Lewis  
Georgia 5<sup>th</sup>

Michael Doyle  
Pennsylvania 14<sup>th</sup>

James P. McGovern  
Massachusetts 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bill Pascrell, Jr  
New Jersey 9<sup>th</sup>

Michael E. Capuano  
Massachusetts 7<sup>th</sup>

Stephen F. Lynch  
Massachusetts 8<sup>th</sup>

Brian Higgins  
New York 26<sup>th</sup>

Joe Courtney  
Connecticut 2<sup>nd</sup>

Peter Welch  
Vermont At Large

Gerald E. Connolly  
Virginia 11<sup>th</sup>

Thomas J. Rooney  
Florida 17<sup>th</sup>

Mike Quigley  
Illinois 5<sup>th</sup>

William Keating  
Massachusetts 9<sup>th</sup>

Patrick Meehan  
Pennsylvania 7<sup>th</sup>

Joseph P. Kennedy  
Massachusetts 4<sup>th</sup>

Daniel Kildee  
Michigan 5<sup>th</sup>

Brendan F. Boyle  
Pennsylvania 13<sup>th</sup>

Seth Moulton  
Massachusetts 6<sup>th</sup>