



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



Date

The Honorable **{Governor, State Representative}** **{First Name Middle Initial Last Name}**

Office Address

City, State, Zip

Dear **{Governor, State Representative}** **{Last Name}**:

We are writing to you **{Governor, State Representative}** **{Last Name}** to ask that you formally proclaim and recognize March as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of {State}. As you are likely aware, March has been designated Irish American Heritage Month by American Presidents of both parties since 1991 and by several acts of Congress.

As we face the continuing challenge of COVID-19, it is essential that we continue to recognize the role that Irish Americans have played in the history of our nation, state, and communities. The Irish American community has a long tradition of service as first responders, and many today are on the frontlines battling this heinous disease. The pandemic has hit the Irish American Community particularly hard. The disease's arrival on our shores at the beginning of March 2020 resulted in the cancelation of the traditional St. Patrick's Day celebrations and the income generated from those celebrations which Irish business, already squeezed by increasing rents and other costs, relied on to see them through the year. These businesses were then further impacted by restrictions on social gatherings. Sadly, many of those businesses, some of which have been the focal point of their communities for generations and have survived World Wars and depressions, have been shuttered. The cancelation of traditional St. Patrick's Day celebrations for a second year may be devastating to those who remain. Many Irish American cultural groups, who have served audiences beyond just the Irish American community, have not been permitted to hold events or fundraise for a year. Sadly, when Covid ends, and it will end, we will likely be saddened when we take stock to see what our communities have lost. To quote an old Irish saying, "*Mar Ná Beidh Ár Leithéidí Arís Ann,*" "*Their likes will not be seen again.*" In these dark times, we need the light of encouragement that a state proclamation of Irish American Heritage Month could bring.

We believe that the countless contributions of Irish immigrants to America and their descendants to our community deserve to be recognized; we should not permit a second-year to go by without the public acknowledgment and awareness they merit. If, for the public good, the celebrations of Irish Heritage this St. Patrick's Day cannot be permitted, then it seems only right and proper that our public leaders help to mitigate the void by issuing a state Irish American Heritage Month proclamation.

We call upon you, **{Governor, State Representative}** **{Last Name}**to in a small way acknowledge and repay the light and hope that the Irish American community has always given to our nation by a formal public proclamation of Irish American Heritage Month in our State.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number