

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of
2 diplomatic relations between the United States of America and Ireland.

3 WHEREAS, a century ago, on October 7, 1924, Ireland formally opened diplomatic
4 relations with the United States of America when Ambassador Timothy Smiddy
5 presented his credentials to President Calvin Coolidge; and

6 WHEREAS, following the Irish people's long and painful struggle for
7 independence, the United States was one of the first nations to recognize the fledgling
8 Irish state earlier that year, and when Ambassador Smiddy emerged from the White
9 House, he had become Ireland's first ambassador to any country in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, it was very appropriate that Ireland's first representative overseas
11 should be dispatched to Washington, D.C., for while 1924 marked the beginning of
12 formal diplomatic relations, the deep Irish-American connection already dated back
13 centuries at that time; and

14 WHEREAS, today, nearly one-tenth of Americans identify as being of Irish
15 ancestry. Irish immigrants helped build the America we know today from the skyscrapers
16 of Manhattan and the transcontinental railroad to our modern political system; and

17 WHEREAS, Irish people have made an enormous contribution to public debate and
18 politics in America, from their local communities to the White House. More than twenty
19 American Presidents claimed some Irish ancestry. The influence of Irish America extends
20 well beyond the Oval Office and the United States Capitol to every state of the nation,
21 most evident by the significant number of state legislators within the American Ireland
22 State Legislators Caucus; and

23 WHEREAS, since Timothy Smiddy's momentous audience in the Oval Office 100
24 years ago, a further eighteen Irish Ambassadors have presented credentials to United
25 States Presidents. Over this time, Ireland's relations with the United States have evolved
26 significantly. From an impoverished and internationally isolated state, scarred by years of
27 conflict, Ireland has transformed over the past century into the economically prosperous

1 and culturally vibrant peaceful nation of today; and

2 WHEREAS, this transformation is due to the support of friends in the United
3 States, from the crucial role America played in brokering peace in Northern Ireland,
4 culminating with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to the substantial American
5 economic investment in Ireland. There are almost 1,000 American companies in Ireland
6 employing over 200,000 people directly. Our economic relationship is truly two-way; as
7 some 100,000 people are employed in the United States by over 650 Irish-owned
8 companies, across every state. Indeed, Ireland is now the ninth largest source of foreign
9 direct investment in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, the American- Irish relationship is a shining example of how ancestral
11 ties, historical connections, cultural affinities, and shared values can create a foundation
12 for enduring partnership and mutual prosperity. Irish American state legislators across the
13 United States are playing a vitally important role in fostering this partnership and
14 ensuring that it continues and flourishes for another century to come;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
17 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

18 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby recognize the 100th
19 anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States of
20 America and Ireland.

21 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representative is directed to transmit a
22 copy of this Resolution to each of the members of the American-Irish Caucus.