

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2023

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, United Kingdom
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

As strong supporters of the long-standing Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom, we wish to offer our congratulations on your recent election as Prime Minister.

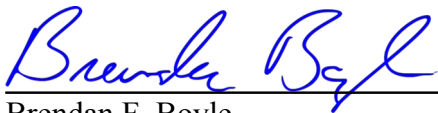
As you assume this critical role at a precarious point in Europe's history, we write with grave concern over your government's decision to continue advancing the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill which denies justice, suppresses the will of the people of Northern Ireland, and conceals the truth of the past. Amid this time of war and unrest on the continent, we are concerned that this legislation would undermine the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement, the bedrock of peace in Northern Ireland. As Members of Congress who understand and respect the pivotal role that the United States played in coming to this Agreement, we feel compelled to write you to voice our strong concern and disappointment with the continued momentum this piece of dangerous legislation maintains.

We believe this legislation would deny justice to thousands of families, across all communities in Northern Ireland, who were impacted by violence during the Troubles. We have conducted significant research into the matter, and we have listened to victims, victims' relatives, human rights groups, political representatives in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and legal experts. The vast majority of these groups believe that implementing a statute of limitations on criminal cases, Ombudsman reports, inquests, and civil actions, alongside legacy mechanisms without investigations by a Historical Investigations Unit, will prevent all genuine paths to justice – justice which is still being achieved.

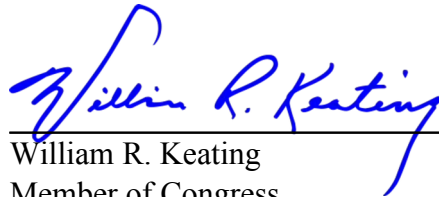
In fact, there are a number of outstanding cases remaining, many of which would be directly impacted by this decision. Those victims and their families, from all communities, still desire justice and more importantly, they deserve justice. In November 2022 for example, an individual in Northern Ireland was held accountable for the 1988 murder of a 23-year-old on his way to a football match, a crime committed during the Troubles. This case is a testament to the continued and necessary judicial process that this bill impedes. As such, we believe that for as long as outstanding evidence and potential criminal liability remains, avenues to justice must remain open.

Prime Minister Sunak, as we approach the 25th anniversary of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement we call on you and your government to assess the impact of this legislation which directly and unilaterally impacts the peace and stability across the island of Ireland. We strongly urge you to return to values agreed upon in the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement and ensure victims of violence from the Troubles receive justice and perpetrators of crimes committed during the Troubles are held accountable.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress




Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



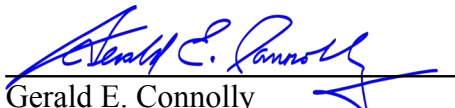
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



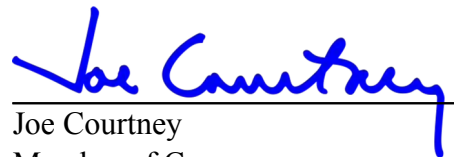
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress




Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



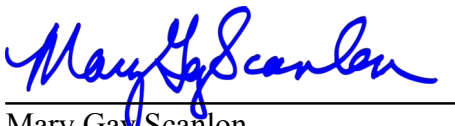
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress




Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



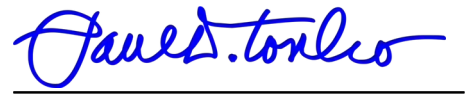
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



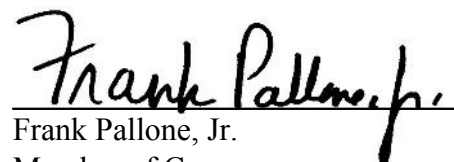
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



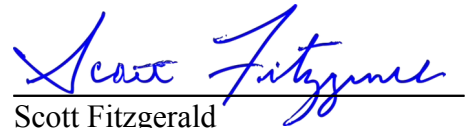
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



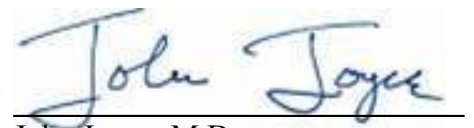
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Mike Lawler
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress