

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 107

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to oppose trade agreements with United Kingdom unless Good Friday Agreement and other Irish peace elements are preserved.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Congress to oppose trade agreements
2 with the United Kingdom unless the Good Friday Agreement and
3 other elements of the Irish peace process are preserved.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The Good Friday Agreement signed on April 10, 1998,
6 Good Friday, centered on the division in Northern Irish society; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The conflict dates back to the early 1920's when Northern
8 Ireland became separated from the rest of Ireland; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Northern Ireland became part of the United Kingdom with
10 England, Wales, and Scotland, leaving the Republic of Ireland as a
11 separate country; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The population of Northern Ireland was divided in two, with
13 Unionists, who wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom, and
14 Nationalists, who wanted Northern Ireland to be independent from
15 the United Kingdom and join the Republic of Ireland; and
16 **WHEREAS**, In 1998, after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of
17 conflict, the Agreement was reached between the British and Irish
18 governments on how Northern Ireland should be governed; and
19 **WHEREAS**, In 1998, the Agreement was signed, resulting in a new
20 government being formed that would see power being shared
21 between Unionists and Nationalists; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The Agreement also addressed whether Northern Ireland
23 should remain in the United Kingdom or become part of a united
24 Ireland, and there would be no change without the consent of the
25 majority; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is attempting to
27 redraw elements of the Brexit treaty with the European Union
28 relating to Northern Ireland; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The Prime Minister has ordered the altering of the
30 withdrawal agreement because he wants British ministers to have the
31 right to interpret key parts of the Northern Ireland protocol, a legal
32 document designed to avoid a hard border with Ireland; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The United States has long utilized trade agreements to
34 advance its foreign policy interests; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The United States has a longstanding interest in ensuring the
36 preservation of the Good Friday Agreement; London's highly-prized
37 trade deal must be evaluated in terms of that longstanding interest;
38 and
39 **WHEREAS**, Brexit cannot be allowed to imperil the Agreement,
40 including the stability brought by the invisible and frictionless border
41 between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland; and
42 **WHEREAS**, The United Kingdom must continue to honor the
43 Agreement, which supported the peace settlement in Northern
44 Ireland, as it departs from the European Union; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Members of the United States Congress have warned that if
46 the United Kingdom undermines the peace process or reinstates a
47 hard border to secure Brexit on its terms, the United Kingdom's

1 chances of securing the required congressional support for a United
2 Kingdom-United States free trade deal will disappear; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Four senior members of Congress in a joint statement
4 warned that the United Kingdom's plans could have disastrous
5 consequences for the Agreement and the broader process of
6 maintaining peace on the island of Ireland; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The members of Congress also stated that many in the
8 Congress and the United States consider the issue of the agreement
9 and a potential United Kingdom-United States free trade agreement
10 inextricably linked; and
11 **WHEREAS**, This House supports the idea that we cannot allow the
12 Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a
13 casualty of Brexit and any trade deal between the United States and
14 the United Kingdom must be contingent upon respect for the
15 Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border; and
16 **WHEREAS**, This House urges Congress to oppose any agreement with
17 the United Kingdom unless the Agreement and other elements of the
18 Irish peace process are preserved; now, therefore,

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20 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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22 1. This House urges Congress to oppose trade agreements with
23 the United Kingdom unless the Good Friday Agreement and other
24 elements of the Irish peace process are preserved.
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26 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
27 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
28 and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority
29 Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader
30 of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of
31 the Congress elected from this State.

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34 **STATEMENT**

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36 The Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998, Good
37 Friday, and centered on the division in Northern Irish society. The
38 conflict dates back to the early 1920's when Northern Ireland became
39 separated from the rest of Ireland.

40 Great Britain ruled Ireland for hundreds of years. Northern
41 Ireland became part of the United Kingdom with England, Wales and
42 Scotland, leaving the Republic of Ireland as a separate country. The
43 population of Northern Ireland was divided in two: Unionists who
44 wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom, and Nationalists who
45 wanted Northern Ireland to be independent from the United Kingdom
46 and join the Republic of Ireland.

47 In 1998, after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict,
48 the Agreement was signed, resulting in a new government being

1 formed that would see power being shared between Unionists and
2 Nationalists. An attempt by the United Kingdom to leave the
3 European Union on its own terms will undermine the Agreement,
4 causing the Agreement to become a casualty of Brexit talks.

5 The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is attempting to redraw
6 elements of the Brexit treaty with the European Union relating to
7 Northern Ireland because he wants British ministers to have the right
8 to interpret key parts of the Northern Ireland protocol, a legal
9 document designed to avoid a hard border with Ireland. However,
10 the change threatens to put London's highly-prized trade deal with
11 the United States in jeopardy. The United Kingdom must continue
12 to honor the Agreement, which supported the peace settlement in
13 Northern Ireland, as it departs from the European Union.

14 Four senior members of the U.S. Congress in a joint statement
15 warned that the United Kingdom's plans could have disastrous
16 consequences for the Agreement and the broader process of
17 maintaining peace on the island of Ireland, and many in the Congress
18 and the United States consider the issue of the Agreement and a
19 potential United States-United Kingdom free trade agreement
20 inextricably linked.

21 This House supports the idea that we cannot allow the Agreement
22 that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit
23 and any trade deal between the United States and United Kingdom
24 must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing
25 the return of a hard border. This House urges Congress to oppose
26 any agreement with the United Kingdom unless the Agreement and
27 other elements of the Irish peace process are preserved.