

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 226

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a model curriculum designed to educate elementary and secondary school-aged children about the Irish famine should be developed.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ZIMMER, Mr. MARTINI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, and Mr. ANDREWS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a model curriculum designed to educate elementary and secondary school-aged children about the Irish famine should be developed.

Whereas, in 1845, the potato was the staple crop and basic nourishment and sustenance of the people of Ireland;

Whereas a potato blight destroyed most of the potato crop in Ireland between 1845 and 1850;

Whereas the famine brought about by the potato blight led to mass starvation over the whole of Ireland and caused the death of more than 1,000,000 of the men, women, and children of Ireland;

Whereas those in the British government responsible for Irish domestic policy were, for varying reasons, consciously indifferent toward the mass starvation of the Irish people, and actively exported the Irish grain crop which could have provided sufficient food for the starving Irish population;

Whereas, after visiting Ireland in 1845, the African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglass wrote that the people of Ireland “are in the same degradation as the American slaves”;

Whereas many people in Britain, most notably Quakers, were sympathetic and generous toward the people of Ireland during the famine and organized extensive relief efforts for the starving masses;

Whereas the elongation of the potato blight and the lack of aid led to the mass emigration of more than 1,000,000 of the Irish people to the United States during the years of the famine;

Whereas these immigrants and their descendants have made and continue to make profound and lasting contributions to the culture and history of the United States; and

Whereas children in the United States should be educated about the famine in Ireland and its effects: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
- 3 Department of Education should develop a model curricu-
- 4 lum designed to educate elementary and secondary school-
- 5 aged children about the Irish famine and its effects, and

- 1 that this model curriculum should be readily available to
- 2 educational institutions and the public.

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