



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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February 25, 2011

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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to speak in favor of Senate Bill 557, *An Act Designating Irish-American Heritage Month and Italian-American Heritage Month.*

As an Irish-American I am very proud of my ancestry, particularly those who came from Ireland at the turn of the century to experience a better life in the United States. I know that many other Americans, like Italian-Americans, share that type of heritage and cultural history. Designating official months to celebrate the cultural history of both Irish-Americans and Italian-Americans is important to preserving that history for the generations to come.

According to the 2000 census 18.6% of the state population identified themselves as Italian-Americans and 16.6% identified themselves as Irish-Americans. Nationally, Connecticut has the greatest population of Italian-Americans – beating out near by states like New York and New Jersey. Within Connecticut the town of New Fairfield, which is a part of my Senate district, has a highly concentrated population of Irish-Americans. Other outer suburban communities similar to New Fairfield also host large Irish-American communities.

Additionally, I have been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Greater Danbury for many years. It has provided me with the opportunity to socialize with others of Irish-American decent in my community, as well as be a part of community celebrations that honor the important traditions and holidays of Irish-Americans.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 557, in order to honor the thousands of Irish-Americans and Italian-Americans who call Connecticut home.

Thank you,

Michael A. McLachlan
Senator – 24th District