



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN VARGAS
SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4006
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8582
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Edwin.Vargas@cga.ct.gov

VICE-CHAIR
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Government, Administrative & Elections Committee
March 7th, 2016

Testimony in Support of H.R. No. 6
Resolution Supporting The Reunification Of Ireland

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, ranking members and esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I am here to testify in favor of House Resolution No. 6 a Resolution Supporting the Reunification of Ireland.

I proudly represent the 6th House District in Hartford's South End neighborhoods. Like many urban areas in the north eastern United States, Hartford was a center of Irish concentration during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This remarkable population left its legacy in every aspect of Hartford's cultural and civic life. Indeed I am proud to state that my district is the only place in our nation with a monument to the Irish hunger strikers who sacrificed their lives in the early 1980s for the cause of a united and free Ireland.

Although I am an American of Puerto Rico descent with no known Irish heritage, I have none-the-less embraced the Irish cause for decades and I am a proud supporting members of Irish Northern Aid. My support for the end of all manners of colonialism and neo-colonialism stems from my belief that an injustice to one is an injustice to all.

Ireland was the first colony of British imperialism. Today imperialism has been repudiated by the International Community as an odious system of exploitation. The British Empire where "The sun never set" is now extant only in history books as the nations that once comprised it have achieved their independence. We, the United States of America, were the First to claim our sovereignty from British Imperialism. May Ireland's reunification be the first and last episode in this failed enterprise.

I thank this committee and its leadership for taking up this timely resolution and I most vigorously urge its adoption.

Respectfully,

Representative Edwin Vargas