

SENATE No. 329

By Mr. Walsh, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 329) of Joseph B. Walsh for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to allow greater immigration to the people of Ireland. Federal Financial Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-nine.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
TO ALLOW GREATER IMMIGRATION TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Whereas, Unfortunately, there seems to be a part of the new U.S. immigration policy which is neither just nor equitable toward the Irish, and as a practical matter, the average Irish person who desires to come and settle here in the United States will no longer be allowed to do so; and

Whereas, If the present U.S. Immigration Law had been on our statute books one hundred and fifty years ago, at least ninety per cent of the Irish in America would not have been allowed to enter the United States; and

Whereas, It is recognized that the old immigration law was unjust and unfair to some other nationalities but that the 1965 Immigration Act substituted a law which, now, is as unfair to Ireland as the old law was to these other nationalities; and

Whereas, Irish nuns and brothers, have for many years, staffed schools, hospitals, orphanages and rest homes for aged in our nation and these religious groups who desire to come here to continue this work, must now wait their turns because of this new Immigration Act; and

Whereas, In 1965, the Irish ranked fifth among the nationals immigrating to the United States and since then, she no longer ranks fifth or even tenth. Irish immigration is at an all time low. In 1967, 2665 were admitted. Since the enactment of the new law in July, 1968, a total of 1,076 persons applied for visas and through November 30th, 1968, only 72 were issued; therefore be it

Resolved, That the General Court of Massachusetts respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact such legislation

as may be necessary to allow greater immigration to the people of Ireland; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the President of the United States, to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to each member thereof from this Commonwealth.