
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 456 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY CORRIGAN, CALTAGIRONE, CURRY, DALEY, GRUCELA,
LEDERER, McCALL, McGEEHAN, PALLONE, PETRARCA, ROBERTS,
ROONEY, SHANER, STABACK, STEELMAN, TANGRETTI, TIGUE,
TRAVAGLIO, WATSON, THOMAS, MARKOSEK, SANTONI, M. WRIGHT,
MICOZZIE, JOSEPHS AND KELLER, MARCH 13, 2002

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2002

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the right to education of the children of Holy Cross
2 Girls' Primary School in Belfast, Ireland, and condemning the
3 violence that has erupted there.

4 WHEREAS, Violent clashes between Protestants and Catholics in
5 Northern Ireland have erupted over centuries of unrest and
6 decades of bloodshed; and

7 WHEREAS, For the children who attend Holy Cross Girls'
8 Primary School in North Belfast the Troubles are a part of day-
9 to-day life and affect their motivation to pursue an education;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The small Catholic elementary school isolated in a
12 Protestant area has turned into a focal point of conflict,
13 beginning September 2001 when anti-Catholic extremists utilized
14 threats, slurs and acts of violence to blockade the students'
15 entrance to the school, setting off months of violent protests
16 over which route children should walk to their school; and

1 WHEREAS, In December 2001 the protests outside Holy Cross
2 school were suspended by an agreement forged by Northern Ireland
3 politicians; and

4 WHEREAS, Loyalists returned to their violent protests just
5 days into the new year, resulting in some of the worst violence
6 in Northern Ireland in recent history, with several hundred
7 injured in several nights of heavy rioting; and

8 WHEREAS, Holy Cross school was forced to close for several
9 days when the Red Hand Defenders, a loyalist paramilitary
10 organization, issued blanket death threats to all Catholic
11 teachers and an armed gang attacked teachers' cars in the
12 parking lot of a nearby school, prompting fears that all
13 Catholic schools in the area would be targeted and causing the
14 teachers union to threaten to strike; and

15 WHEREAS, Two weeks ago, tens of thousands of Catholics and
16 Protestants marched together in protest against the continuing
17 violence around Holy Cross school; and

18 WHEREAS, Northern Ireland Secretary of State John Reid said
19 that children should not have to pay the price of the failure of
20 adults to live together in peace; and

21 WHEREAS, It is essential that all children around the world,
22 regardless of their faith, are able to pursue their education
23 free from fear of violence, that all children are properly
24 protected going to and coming home from school and that this
25 violent abuse of the school as a peaceful sanctuary is condemned
26 by all citizens of the world; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the right
28 to education of the children of Holy Cross Girls' Primary School
29 in Belfast, Ireland, and condemn the violence that has erupted
30 there.