

## Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ILIR welcomes Bush Speech on Immigration Reform**

The Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform tonight welcomed the State of the Union speech by US President George Bush who urged Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

President Bush, flanked by Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said it was time to address the status of the undocumented immigrants in the US.

Irish immigrants in San Francisco hope that Speaker Pelosi will use her newfound clout to help them - and the 11 million undocumented immigrants - adjust their status.

The ILIR is holding a rally in Speaker Pelosi's district on Thursday, February 1 and local Irish immigrants will be available to share their stories. More than 1,000 Irish Americans and Irish immigrants are expected to attend the rally.

Irish immigrants living in Speaker Pelosi's district in Sunset include Deirdre and Eamonn;

Deirdre has been with the ILIR since it started; she was so affected by September 11 that she went back to school to train as a nurse; she has not been able to get a working visa. Her husband, Eamon, came over from the North of Ireland 14 years ago. There were no jobs in his town, Together, they run a small construction business, pay all their taxes, and hope to have a family here. Their lives are on hold. Ireland holds no future for them, and America is still an unknown.

The ILIR is the voice of the Irish on this issue. ILIR has been featured on page one of *The New York Times*, as well as in the

*Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, CNN, CBS Evening News and over 100 media outlets.

Speakers at the rally will include San Francisco-based Bart Murphy, chairman of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, Celine Kennelly, Executive Director at the Irish Immigration and Pastoral Centre in San Francisco, ILIR Chairman Niall O'Dowd and vice-chairman Ciaran Staunton; Executive Director Kelly Fincham and several elected officials and Irish community leaders.

Please call Kelly Fincham at 718.598.7530 for more details or call the Irish Immigration and Pastoral Center in San Francisco at 415.752.6008.

Warm regards,  
Kelly Fincham

**SAN FRANCISCO RALLY DETAILS**

February 1: The ILIR will be holding a rally in San Francisco. Thursday Feb 1 at the United Irish Cultural Center 7.30pm (2700 45th Ave @ Sloat).

Contact the Irish Immigration Pastoral center at [iipc@pacbell.net](mailto:iipc@pacbell.net) or call 415 752 6006