

## Rothman Introduces Bill to Grant Permanent Legal Status to Irish Asylum Seekers

July 27, 2004

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Permanent Legal Status to Irish Asylum Seekers  
Measure Would Allow Malachy McAllister &  
His Dependent Children To Live Freely In The U.S.

Washington, DC - Continuing his efforts to help gain political asylum for an Irish Catholic family now living in Wallington, New Jersey, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) last week introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow them to stay indefinitely in the United States. Rothman said he introduced the bill as another means of obtaining permanent legal status for Malachy McAllister and his two dependent children, Nicola and Sean Ryan.

"This legislation provides another path for reaching our goal of providing the McAllister family with the security of a life in America," Rothman said. "With the passing of Bernadette McAllister, Malachy's wife and the mother of their four children, in May, it has become even more imperative that action be taken immediately in order to relieve this family of the burden they carry. For too long the McAllister family has been fighting for their right to build a future in this country and not be forced back to Northern Ireland. They must be allowed to stay in the United States instead of being sent back to Northern Ireland where they would very likely be subject to attacks by Loyalist forces."

Rothman's bill would grant permanent legal status to the McAllister family in order to allow them to continue to live in the United States, legally work here, and be protected by all U.S. laws. In December 2003, Rothman got U.S. Homeland Security officials to release Malachy McAllister and one of his sons from mandatory detention so that they could continue to work and remain free while the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals was considering a temporary stay of removal. On a separate track, Malachy's wife, Bernadette McAllister, and their three other children were faced with a voluntary departure deadline of December 17, 2003. Rothman got U.S. Homeland Security officials to grant Bernadette and the children a 30 day extension to remain in the United States through Christmas. That created the window of time needed for the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals to grant the entire family a stay of removal in January 2004 until the Court further reviewed their case. The asylum case is currently pending before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Malachy McAllister and his family, including his late wife Bernadette, fled Northern Ireland following an armed Loyalist attack on their home in October 1988, in which 26 shots were fired into their living room. These shots barely missed McAllister's children and mother-in-law. Fearing for their lives, McAllister and his family fled Northern Ireland and have been seeking asylum in the United States ever since. Many believe that if forced to return to Northern Ireland the McAllister family will once again be the target of violence.

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