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STATEMENT FROM SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ON THE AUTISM CAUCUS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I would like to commend the Northern Ireland Assembly's Autism Caucus for entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Autism Caucus of the United States Congress, of which I am a member. During the visit of the Celtic Nations Autism Partnership, autism advocates and policy makers from multiple countries had the opportunity to share their strategies and ideas to improve the care and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

With this Memorandum of Understanding, we will be able to further research ties and promote cooperation between our governments and non-profit organizations. I have introduced legislation, the *Expanding the Promise of Individuals with Autism Act*, which would increase the availability of services and enhance training opportunities for disability professionals, and I look forward to learning how the best practices of the Celtic Nations can help inform our initiatives to address autism.

Throughout the Peace Process, I have had a long-standing relationship with the people of Northern Ireland. It is a sign of the great progress that the many parties in Northern Ireland are coming together on this important issue, and I welcome the opportunity to partner with them on this issue.