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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

October 7, 2011

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Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to join you as you honor Clara Reilly for her outstanding life-long accomplishments, passion and courage; and present her with the prestigious 2011 National AOH-LAOH Sean MacBride Award.

Sean MacBride, as you know, was a leading human rights activist in Ireland, a founding member of Amnesty International, and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. In the United States, we also noted and fought for his "MacBride Principles" for fair employment—a code of conduct designed to eliminate workplace discrimination in the north of Ireland, especially by influencing U.S. companies doing business there.

The National AOH and Ladies AOH have chosen Clara for the award that bears Mr. MacBride's name and honors his human rights legacy because Clara's own groundbreaking efforts to secure justice and the rule of law have—like Sean MacBride's—helped countless others.

A wife and mother of six, Clara still made time for fellow citizens victimized by injustice and prejudice in the north of Ireland. A founding member of the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets, Clara helped give world-wide exposure to the discriminatory, sectarian use of these weapons. Wounded herself by a rubber bullet, Clara and her organization provided timely and skillful assistance to defenseless victims and made sure that the truth about the lethal consequences of both rubber and plastic bullets was not concealed by the weapon's seemingly innocuous names.

Having had the opportunity to read the tribute offered by the Reilly Clan—Clara's children—it is clear that even in the midst of the most difficult and troubled times Clara never abandoned her desire to seek and promote the truth. Like Sean MacBride, Clara now has her own human rights legacy—a legacy established through her advocacy for justice for others.

Congratulations Clara and thank you for your selfless acts promoting universal human rights and the rule of law in the north of Ireland.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

Co-Chairman of: Alzheimer's Caucus • Bi-Partisan Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism • Lyme Disease Caucus  
Coalition on Autism Research and Education • Global Internet Freedom Caucus • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus  
Spina Bifida Caucus • Vietnam Caucus • Poland Caucus • Bosnia Caucus  
Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs • Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking