



Headline Stories

Undocumented Irish rally in Washington

About 2,500 Irish immigrants attended a rally in Washington DC on Wednesday to lobby for US immigration reform. Wearing t-shirts that said "Legalize the Irish", they travelled from as far away as Boston, New York, Stamford, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco. They are supporting legislation that they hope would benefit the estimated 20-50,000 undocumented Irish in the US, along with the 12 million so-called illegals of every nationality. Events attended by the group included a rally on Capitol Hill and the distribution of letters to elected officials calling for immigration reform. The events were sponsored by the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform.

The rally was addressed by US Senators Ted Kennedy and John McCain, who co-sponsored legislation which the Irish Lobby supports. Senator Hillary Clinton also addressed the crowds. The New York Sun newspaper reports that she received a rousing ovation as she called for "a path to earned legalization".

The issue of the Irish undocumented is expected to be on the agenda when Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Foreign Affairs Minister Dermot Ahern meet US President George Bush at the annual St Patrick's Day ceremonies in the White House.

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