



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

## Letter of Support

Re: Two Hearts Beat as One: Martin Naughton's Journey to the United States

18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

To whom it concerns

As President of Ireland, I am pleased to show my support and my encouragement to Martin Naughton with respect to his symbolic journey to important locations in the history of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and of the disability rights movement of the 1980s and subsequently.

I support the vision which underpins Martin's journey: that of building solidarity between those who strive for equality, dignity and human rights for all groups in society, as well as building friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the United States and Ireland.

The issue of the human rights of persons with disability is a great challenge for our time and for all who are in positions of leadership. Martin has shown himself to be an advocate for human rights of remarkable courage, tenacity and ambition over several decades. He has shown inspirational leadership in the struggle for equality in Ireland and I believe this journey and the political and other engagements can play a valuable role in raising public awareness of disability rights in the United States and in Ireland.

I would respectfully ask that you provide whatever support and assistance that you can to Martin Naughton in the course of his journey.

Yours sincerely

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland