

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1794

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 1999

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health
Organization (WHO).

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**
2 **IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**
3 **(WHO).**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
5 findings:

6 (1) Good health is a basic right for every citizen
7 of the world and access to the highest standards of
8 health information and services is necessary to help
9 guarantee this right.

10 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in
11 international health cooperation forums and pro-
12 grams is therefore crucial, especially with today's
13 greater potential for the cross-border spread of var-
14 ious infectious diseases such as AIDS.

15 (3) The World Health Organization (WHO) set
16 forth in the first chapter of its charter the objective
17 of attaining the highest possible level of health for
18 all people.

19 (4) In 1977, the World Health Organization es-
20 tablished “Health For All By The Year 2000” as its
21 overriding priority and reaffirmed that central vision
22 with the initiation of its “Health For All” renewal
23 process in 1995.

24 (5) Taiwan's population of 21,000,000 people is
25 larger than that of three-fourths of the member
26 states already in the World Health Organization.

1 (6) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health
2 are substantial, including one of the highest life ex-
3 pectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mor-
4 tality rates comparable to those of western countries,
5 the eradication of such infectious diseases as chol-
6 era, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to be rid
7 of polio and provide children with free hepatitis B
8 vaccinations.

9 (7) The World Health Organization was unable
10 to assist Taiwan with an outbreak of enterovirus 71
11 which killed 70 Taiwanese children and infected
12 more than 1,100 Taiwanese children in 1998.

13 (8) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a will-
14 ingness to assist financially or technically in WHO-
15 supported international aid and health activities, but
16 has ultimately been unable to render such assist-
17 ance.

18 (9) The World Health Organization allows ob-
19 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-
20 zation.

21 (10) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan
22 Policy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-
23 wan's participation in appropriate international or-
24 ganizations.

1 (11) In light of all of the benefits that Taiwan's
2 participation in the World Health Organization
3 could bring to the state of health not only in Tai-
4 wan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its
5 21,000,000 people should have appropriate and
6 meaningful participation in the World Health Orga-
7 nization.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2000, the
9 Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Congress
10 on the efforts of the Secretary to fulfill the commitment
11 made in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review to more actively
12 support Taiwan's participation in international organiza-
13 tions, in particular the World Health Organization
14 (WHO).

 Passed the House of Representatives October 4,
1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.