

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 428

AN ACT

Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the
World Health Organization.

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Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health
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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 for all parts of the world,
13 especially with today's greater potential for the
14 cross-border spread of various infectious diseases
15 such as AIDS.

16 (3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is
17 larger than that of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states already
18 in the World Health Organization (WHO).

19 (4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health
20 are substantial, including one of the highest life ex-
21 pectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mor-
22 tality rates comparable to those of western countries,
23 the eradication of such infectious diseases as chol-
24 era, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to be rid
25 of polio and to provide children with free hepatitis
26 B vaccinations.

1 (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-
2 trol and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have en-
3 joyed close collaboration on a wide range of public
4 health issues.

5 (6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a will-
6 ingness to assist financially and technically in inter-
7 national aid and health activities supported by the
8 WHO.

9 (7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, reg-
10 istering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale,
11 struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese gov-
12 ernment sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 indi-
13 viduals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and
14 civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign
15 Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the
16 Salvadoran Government.

17 (8) The World Health Assembly has allowed ob-
18 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-
19 zation, including the Palestine Liberation Organiza-
20 tion in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See
21 in the early 1950's.

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

1 (10) Public Law 106–137 required the Sec-
2 retary of State to submit a report to the Congress
3 on efforts by the executive branch to support Tai-
4 wan’s participation in international organizations, in
5 particular the WHO.

6 (11) In light of all the benefits that Taiwan’s
7 participation in the WHO can bring to the state of
8 health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and
9 globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should
10 have appropriate and meaningful participation in the
11 WHO.

12 (b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State shall initiate a
13 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status
14 for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World
15 Health Assembly in May 2001 in Geneva, Switzerland,
16 and shall instruct the United States delegation to Geneva
17 to implement that plan.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall

- 1 submit a written report to the Congress in unclassified
- 2 form containing the plan required under subsection (b).

Passed the House of Representatives April 24, 2001.

Attest:

Clerk.