

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 428

Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. WU, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. COX, Mr. NEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. STARK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

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

3 **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**

4 **IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

5 **(WHO).**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following  
7 findings:

8 (1) Good health is a basic right for every citizen  
9 of the world and access to the highest standards of

1 health information and services is necessary to help  
2 guarantee this right.

3 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in  
4 international health cooperation forums and pro-  
5 grams is therefore crucial for all parts of the world,  
6 especially with today's greater potential for the  
7 cross-border spread of various infectious diseases  
8 such as AIDS.

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

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

20 (5) In 1998, an outbreak of enterovirus 71  
21 killed 70 Taiwanese children whose deaths could  
22 have been prevented if Taiwan would have had ac-  
23 cess to the WHO.

24 (6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a will-  
25 ingness to assist financially and technically in inter-

1 national aid and health activities supported by the  
2 WHO, but has been unable to render such assistance  
3 because Taiwan is not a member of the WHO.

4 (7) The WHO has allowed observers to partici-  
5 pate in the activities of the organization, including  
6 the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Knights  
7 of Malta, and the Vatican.

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

12 (9) Public Law 106–137 required the Secretary  
13 of State to submit a report to Congress on efforts  
14 by the executive branch to support Taiwan's partici-  
15 pation in international organizations, in particular  
16 the WHO.

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

1           (11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan’s par-  
2           ticipation in the WHO can bring to the state of  
3           health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and  
4           globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should  
5           have appropriate and meaningful participation in the  
6           WHO.

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

13          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date  
14          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
15          submit a written report to the Congress in unclassified  
16          form containing the plan required under subsection (b).

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