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To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2004

Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BOND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To address 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 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) Good health is important to every citizen of
8 the world and access to the highest standards of
9 health information and services is necessary to im-
10 prove the public health.

1 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in
 2 international health cooperation forums and pro-
 3 grams is beneficial for all parts of the world, espe-
 4 cially today with the great potential for the cross-
 5 border spread of various infectious diseases such as
 6 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuber-
 7 culosis, and malaria.

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

11 (4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health
 12 are substantial, including—

13 (A) attaining—

14 (i) 1 of the highest life expectancy lev-
 15 els in Asia; and

16 (ii) maternal and infant mortality
 17 rates comparable to those of western coun-
 18 tries;

19 (B) eradicating such infectious diseases as
 20 cholera, smallpox, the plague, and polio; and

21 (C) providing children with hepatitis B
 22 vaccinations.

23 (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-
 24 trol and Prevention and its counterpart agencies in

1 Taiwan have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide
2 range of public health issues.

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

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

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

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

24 (10) Public Law 106-137 required the Sec-
25 retary of State to submit a report to Congress on ef-

1 forts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's
2 participation in international organizations, in par-
3 ticular the WHO.

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

10 (12) On May 11, 2001, President Bush stated
11 in a letter to Senator Murkowski that the United
12 States "should find opportunities for Taiwan's voice
13 to be heard in international organizations in order to
14 make a contribution, even if membership is not pos-
15 sible", further stating that the administration "has
16 focused on finding concrete ways for Taiwan to ben-
17 efit and contribute to the WHO".

18 (13) In his speech made in the World Medical
19 Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health
20 and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, announced
21 "America's work for a healthy world cuts across po-
22 litical lines. That is why my government supports
23 Taiwan's efforts to gain observership status at the
24 World Health Assembly. We know this is a con-
25 troversial issue, but we do not shrink from taking a

1 public stance on it. The people of Taiwan deserve
2 the same level of public health as citizens of every
3 nation on earth, and we support them in their ef-
4 forts to achieve it”.

5 (14) The Government of the Republic of China
6 on Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the
7 United Nations and the United States for resources
8 to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated
9 \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-
10 berculosis and Malaria in December 2002.

11 (15) In 2003, the outbreak of Severe Acute
12 Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) caused 73 deaths in
13 Taiwan.

14 (16) Avian influenza, commonly known as bird
15 flu, has reemerged in Asia with strains of the influ-
16 enza reported by the People’s Republic of China,
17 Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, South
18 Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.

19 (17) The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks
20 illustrate that disease knows no boundaries and em-
21 phasize the importance of allowing all people access
22 to the WHO.

23 (18) As the pace of globalization quickens and
24 the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is cru-
25 cial that all people, including the people of Taiwan,

1 be given the opportunity to participate in inter-
2 national health organizations such as the WHO.

3 (19) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
4 ices acknowledged during the 2003 World Health
5 Assembly meeting that “[t]he need for effective pub-
6 lic health exists among all peoples”.

7 (b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State is authorized to—

8 (1) initiate a United States plan to endorse and
9 obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual
10 week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in
11 May 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland;

12 (2) instruct the United States delegation to the
13 World Health Assembly in Geneva to implement that
14 plan; and

15 (3) introduce a resolution in support of observer
16 status for Taiwan at the summit of the World
17 Health Assembly.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date
19 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall sub-
20 mit a report to Congress in unclassified form describing
21 the action taken to carry out the plan described in sub-
22 section (b).

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