

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3793

Concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2004

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

Concerning 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 important to every citizen of  
9 the world and access to the highest standards of

1 health information and services is necessary to im-  
2 prove the public health.

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

10 (3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is  
11 greater than that of three-fourths of the member  
12 states already in the World Health Organization  
13 (WHO).

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

22 (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-  
23 trol and Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart  
24 agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide  
25 range of public health issues.

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

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

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

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

22          (10) Public Law 106-137 required the Sec-  
23          retary of State to submit a report to the Congress  
24          on efforts by the executive branch to support Tai-

1 wan’s participation in international organizations, in  
2 particular the WHO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (16) Avian influenza, commonly known as bird  
14 flu, has reemerged in Asia as some strain of the in-  
15 fluenza has been reported by Cambodia, China, In-  
16 donesia, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, South Korea, Tai-  
17 wan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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

22 (18) As the pace of globalization quickens and  
23 the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is crit-  
24 ical 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) Secretary of Health and Human Services  
4 Tommy Thompson acknowledged during the 2003  
5 World Health Assembly meeting that “[t]he need for  
6 effective public health exists among all peoples”.

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

8 (1) to initiate a United States plan to endorse  
9 and 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) to instruct the United States delegation to  
13 Geneva to implement that plan; and

14 (3) to introduce a resolution in support of ob-  
15 server status for Taiwan at the summit of the World  
16 Health Assembly.

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date  
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
19 submit a report to Congress in unclassified form describ-  
20 ing the action taken under subsection (b).

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