

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3320

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

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. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD**
2 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is
6 a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged
7 with coordinating health efforts within the United
8 Nations system. The World Health Assembly
9 (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO,
10 which convenes annually in May to set the policies
11 and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not
12 a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and nu-
13 merous observers, including non-members and non-
14 governmental organizations, attended the most re-
15 cent WHA in May 2017.

16 (2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the
17 WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong
18 support from successive United States Administra-
19 tions, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member
20 States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait
21 relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend
22 the WHA as an observer under the name “Chinese
23 Taipei”. Taiwan received the same invitation each
24 year until 2016, when following the election of Presi-
25 dent Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive
26 Party, Taiwan’s engagement in the international

1 community began facing increased resistance from
2 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-
3 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-
4 cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-
5 pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. In 2017,
6 Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the WHA.

7 (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to
8 world health, having provided financial and technical
9 assistance to respond to numerous global health
10 challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in
11 international medical and humanitarian aid efforts
12 impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014,
13 Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1
14 million and providing 100,000 sets of personal pro-
15 tective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation
16 and Training Framework, the United States and
17 Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for
18 experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika.
19 These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan’s need-
20 less exclusion from global health cooperation in-
21 creases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

22 (4) Taiwan’s international engagement has
23 faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan
24 was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the Inter-
25 national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite

1 participating as a guest at the organization’s prior
2 summit in 2013. Taiwan’s request to participate in
3 the 2016 General Assembly of the International
4 Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was also
5 rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a
6 meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict dia-
7 monds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from
8 Taiwan were asked to leave. In June 2017, the Re-
9 public of Panama granted diplomatic recognition to
10 the PRC, terminating a longstanding diplomatic re-
11 lationship with Taiwan.

12 (5) Congress has established a policy of support
13 for Taiwan’s participation in international bodies
14 that address shared transnational challenges, par-
15 ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794
16 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Con-
17 gress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct
18 the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for,
19 and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to ob-
20 tain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Con-
21 gress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress,
22 directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to
23 gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assem-
24 bly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing
25 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-

1 server status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assem-
2 bly. However, in 2016 Taiwan did not receive invita-
3 tions to attend any of these events as an observer.

4 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE
5 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-
6 GANIZATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1
8 of Public Law 108–235 (118 Stat. 656) is amended
9 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

10 “(3) An account of the changes and improve-
11 ments the Secretary of State has made to the
12 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer
13 status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly,
14 following any annual meetings of the World Health
15 Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer
16 status.”.

17 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
18 by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-
19 ning with the first report required under subsection

1 (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is sub-
2 mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives January 9,
2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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