

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4004

Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2000

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

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 22,000,000 people is
10 larger than that of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states already
11 in the 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 WHO-

1 supported international aid and health activities, but
2 has been unable to render such assistance.

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

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

11 (9) Public Law 106–137 required the Secretary
12 of State to submit a report to Congress on adminis-
13 tration efforts to support Taiwan's participation in
14 international organizations, in particular the WHO.

15 (10) On January 4, 2000, the State Depart-
16 ment issued its report to the Congress, "Taiwan
17 Participation in the World Health Organization,"
18 which notes that "historically, observers have some-
19 times been authorized at the World Health Assembly
20 meetings" but refuses to follow the spirit of the
21 1994 Taiwan Policy Review and endorse Taiwanese
22 participation in this manner.

23 (11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan's par-
24 ticipation in the WHO can bring to the state of
25 health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and

1 globally, Taiwan and its 22,000,000 people should
2 have appropriate and meaningful participation in the
3 WHO.

4 (b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State shall initiate a
5 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status
6 for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World
7 Health Assembly in May 2000 in Geneva, Switzerland,
8 and shall instruct the United States delegation to Geneva
9 to implement such plan.

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

○