

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4019

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**  
2 **IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

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

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

9 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in  
10 international health cooperation forums and pro-  
11 grams is beneficial for all parts of the world, espe-  
12 cially today with the great potential for the cross-  
13 border spread of various infectious diseases such as  
14 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuber-  
15 culosis, and malaria.

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

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

21 (A) attaining—

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

24 (ii) maternal and infant mortality  
25 rates comparable to those of western coun-  
26 tries;

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

3 (C) providing children with hepatitis B  
4 vaccinations.

5 (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-  
6 trol and Prevention and its counterpart agencies in  
7 Taiwan have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide  
8 range of public health issues.

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

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

21 (8) The World Health Assembly has allowed ob-  
22 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-  
23 zation, including the Palestine Liberation Organiza-  
24 tion in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See  
25 in the early 1950's.

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

5           (10) Public Law 106–137 required the Sec-  
6       retary of State to submit a report to Congress on ef-  
7       forts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's  
8       participation in international organizations, in par-  
9       ticular the WHO.

10          (11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan's par-  
11       ticipation in the WHO can bring to the state of  
12       health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and  
13       globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should  
14       have appropriate and meaningful participation in the  
15       WHO.

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

24          (13) In his speech made in the World Medical  
25       Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health

1       and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced  
2       “America’s work for a healthy world cuts across po-  
3       litical lines. That is why my government supports  
4       Taiwan’s efforts to gain observership status at the  
5       World Health Assembly. We know this is a con-  
6       troversial issue, but we do not shrink from taking a  
7       public stance on it. The people of Taiwan deserve  
8       the same level of public health as citizens of every  
9       nation on earth, and we support them in their ef-  
10      forts to achieve it”.

11           (14) The Government of the Republic of China  
12      on Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the  
13      United Nations and the United States for resources  
14      to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated  
15      \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-  
16      berculosis, and Malaria in December 2002.

17           (15) In 2003, the outbreak of Severe Acute  
18      Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) caused 84 deaths in  
19      Taiwan.

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

1           (17) The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks  
2           illustrate that disease knows no boundaries and em-  
3           phasize the importance of allowing all people access  
4           to the WHO.

5           (18) As the pace of globalization quickens and  
6           the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is cru-  
7           cial that all people, including the people of Taiwan,  
8           be given the opportunity to participate in inter-  
9           national health organizations such as the WHO.

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

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

15               (1) initiate a United States plan to endorse and  
16               obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual  
17               week-long summit of the World Health Assembly  
18               each year in Geneva, Switzerland;

19               (2) instruct the United States delegation to the  
20               World Health Assembly in Geneva to implement that  
21               plan; and

22               (3) introduce a resolution in support of observer  
23               status for Taiwan at the summit of the World  
24               Health Assembly.

1       (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR  
2 TAIWAN AT THE SUMMIT OF THE WORLD HEALTH AS-  
3 SEMBLY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the  
4 enactment of this Act, and not later than April 1 of each  
5 year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a re-  
6 port to the Congress, in unclassified form, describing the  
7 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status  
8 for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World  
9 Health Assembly (WHA) held by the World Health Orga-  
10 nization (WHO) in May of each year in Geneva, Switzer-  
11 land. Each report shall include the following:

12           (1) An account of the efforts the Secretary of  
13 State has made, following the last meeting of the  
14 World Health Assembly, to encourage WHO member  
15 states to promote Taiwan's bid to obtain observer  
16 status.

17           (2) The steps the Secretary of State will take  
18 to endorse and obtain observer status at the next  
19 annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in  
20 Geneva, Switzerland.

Passed the House of Representatives April 21, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*