

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2716

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2018

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD**
4 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

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

7 (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is
8 a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged
9 with coordinating health efforts within the United

1 Nations system. The World Health Assembly
2 (WHA) is the decisionmaking body of the WHO,
3 which convenes annually in May to set the policies
4 and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not
5 a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and nu-
6 merous observers, including non-members and non-
7 governmental organizations, attended the most re-
8 cent WHA in May 2017.

9 (2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the
10 WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong
11 support from successive United States administra-
12 tions, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member
13 States, and during a period of improved cross-Strait
14 relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend
15 the WHA as an observer under the name “Chinese
16 Taipei”. Taiwan received the same invitation each
17 year until 2016, when following the election of Presi-
18 dent Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive
19 Party, Taiwan’s engagement in the international
20 community began facing increased resistance from
21 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-
22 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-
23 cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-
24 pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. In 2017,
25 Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the WHA.

1 (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to
2 world health, having provided financial and technical
3 assistance to respond to numerous global health
4 challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6,000,000,000
5 in international medical and humanitarian aid ef-
6 forts impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In
7 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by do-
8 nating \$1,000,000 and providing 100,000 sets of
9 personal protective equipment. Through the Global
10 Cooperation and Training Framework, the United
11 States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training
12 programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue
13 Fever, and Zika. These diseases know no borders,
14 and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health
15 cooperation increases the dangers presented by glob-
16 al pandemics.

17 (4) Taiwan's international engagement has
18 faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan
19 was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the Inter-
20 national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite
21 participating as a guest at the organization's prior
22 summit in 2013. Taiwan's request to participate in
23 the 2016 General Assembly of the International
24 Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was also
25 rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a

1 meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict dia-
2 monds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from
3 Taiwan were asked to leave. In June 2017, the Re-
4 public of Panama granted diplomatic recognition to
5 the PRC, terminating a longstanding diplomatic re-
6 lationship with Taiwan.

7 (5) Congress has established a policy of support
8 for Taiwan's participation in international bodies
9 that address shared transnational challenges, par-
10 ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794
11 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Con-
12 gress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct
13 the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for,
14 and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to ob-
15 tain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Con-
16 gress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress,
17 directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to
18 gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assem-
19 bly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing
20 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-
21 server status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assem-
22 bly. However, in 2016 Taiwan did not receive invita-
23 tions to attend any of these events as an observer.

1 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE
2 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-
3 GANIZATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1
5 of the Act entitled, “An Act to address the partici-
6 pation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization”
7 (Public Law 108–235; 118 Stat. 656) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

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

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
17 by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-
18 ning with the first report required under subsection
19 (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is sub-
20 mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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