

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 296

To limit funding for the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To limit funding for 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “World Health Organi-
5 zation Accountability Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that, in response to the World Health
8 Organization’s denial that Taiwan ever alerted the organi-
9 zation to the possibility of human-to-human transmission
10 of COVID–19, the Central Epidemic Command Center
11 made the following statement on April 11, 2020:

1 “(1) The Taiwan Centers for Disease Control
2 (Taiwan CDC) learned from online sources that
3 there had been at least seven cases of atypical pneu-
4 monia in Wuhan, China. In China, the term ‘atypi-
5 cal pneumonia’ is commonly used to refer to SARS,
6 a disease transmitted between humans caused by
7 coronavirus.

8 “(2) Owing to its experience with the SARS
9 epidemic in 2003, Taiwan vigilantly kept track of in-
10 formation about the new outbreak. On December 31,
11 2019, Taiwan sent an email to the International
12 Health Regulations (IHR) focal point under the
13 World Health Organization (WHO), informing
14 WHO of its understanding of the disease and also
15 requesting further information from WHO. Given
16 the lack of clarity at the time, as well as the many
17 rumors that were circulating, Taiwan’s aim was to
18 ensure that all relevant parties remained alert, espe-
19 cially since the outbreak occurred just before the
20 Lunar New Year holiday, which typically sees tre-
21 mendous amounts of travel. To be prudent, in the
22 email we took pains to refer to atypical pneumonia,
23 and specifically noted that patients had been isolated
24 for treatment. Public health professionals could dis-
25 cern from this wording that there was a real possi-

1 bility of human-to-human transmission of the dis-
2 ease. However, because at the time there were as yet
3 no cases of the disease in Taiwan, we could not state
4 directly and conclusively that there had been human-
5 to-human transmission.

6 “(3) The Taiwan CDC also contacted the Chi-
7 nese Center for Disease Control and Prevention in
8 a bid to obtain more information. However, in re-
9 sponse to our inquiries, the WHO IHR focal point
10 only responded with a short message stating that
11 Taiwan’s information had been forwarded to expert
12 colleagues; China provided only a press release.

13 “(4) Even though Taiwan strongly suspected
14 that human-to-human transmission of the disease
15 was already occurring at the time, we were unable
16 to gain confirmation through existing channels.
17 Therefore, on the day the aforementioned email was
18 sent to WHO, the Taiwan government activated en-
19 hanced border control and quarantine measures
20 based on the assumption that human-to-human
21 transmission was in fact occurring. These measures
22 included screening passengers on flights from
23 Wuhan prior to disembarkation.

24 “(5) In mid-January, the Taiwan CDC dis-
25 patched experts to Wuhan to gain a better under-

1 standing of the epidemic, the control measures taken
2 there, and patients' exposure history. Based on pre-
3 liminary research, Taiwan determined that this form
4 of pneumonia could indeed spread via human-to-
5 human transmission.”.

6 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**
7 **FUNDING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—No funds may be provided as an
9 assessed or voluntary contribution to the World Health
10 Organization (WHO) until—

11 (1) the World Health Organization replaces all
12 of the top leadership of the organization that was in
13 place as of January 1, 2020, including the positions
14 set forth in subsection (b); and

15 (2) Taiwan is accepted as a Member State of
16 the World Health Organization.

17 (b) COVERED POSITIONS.—The positions referred to
18 in subsection (a)(1) are as follows:

19 (1) WHO Director-General.

20 (2) WHO Deputy Director-General.

21 (3) Chef de Cabinet.

22 (4) Executive Director for External Relations
23 and Governance.

24 (5) Executive Director, WHO Health Emer-
25 gencies Programme.

1 (6) Chief Scientist.

2 (7) Senior Advisor to the Director-General, Or-
3 ganizational Change.

4 (8) Special Advisor to the Director-General.

5 (9) Assistant Director-General, Special Advisor
6 to the Director-General, Strategic Priorities.

7 (10) Assistant Director-General, Universal
8 Health Coverage/Healthier Populations.

9 (11) Assistant Director-General, Business Op-
10 erations.

11 (12) Assistant Director-General, WHO's office
12 at the United Nations in New York.

13 (13) Assistant Director-General, Access to
14 Medicines and Health Products.

15 (14) Assistant Director-General, Universal
16 Health Coverage/Communicable and Noncommu-
17 nicable Diseases.

18 (15) Assistant Director-General, Emergency
19 Preparedness and International Health Regulations.

20 (16) Assistant-Director General, Strategic Ini-
21 tiatives.

22 (17) Assistant Director-General, Emergency
23 Response.

24 (18) Director-General's Envoy for Multilateral
25 Affairs.

1 (19) Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial
2 Resistance.

3 (20) Assistant Director-General, for Data, Ana-
4 lytics and Delivery.

5 (21) WHO Regional Director for Africa.

6 (22) WHO Regional Director for the Americas.

7 (23) WHO Regional Director for South-East
8 Asia.

9 (24) WHO Regional Director for Europe.

10 (25) WHO Regional Director for the Eastern
11 Mediterranean.

12 (26) WHO Regional Director for the Western
13 Pacific.

14 (c) LIMITATION.—No funds may be provided as a
15 United States assessed or voluntary contribution to the
16 World Health Organization in a fiscal year in excess of
17 the amount contributed by any other Member State of the
18 organization during such fiscal year.

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