

# House Resolution 48 - Introduced

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H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ S.R. \_\_\_\_\_

1 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_  
1 2 BY BELL, MURPHY, GIPP, and ROBERTS  
1 3 A Resolution supporting a proposal to invite the  
1 4 Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate in the  
1 5 upcoming meeting of the World Health Assembly as an  
1 6 observer.  
1 7 WHEREAS, the sixtieth World Health Assembly meeting  
1 8 is scheduled to take place May 14 through 23, 2007, in  
1 9 Geneva, Switzerland; and  
1 10 WHEREAS, the Republic of China, commonly known as  
1 11 Taiwan, was a founding member of the World Health  
1 12 Organization and participated for 24 years as a full  
1 13 member contributing to achieving the organization's  
1 14 objectives; and  
1 15 WHEREAS, in 1972, in the wake of the admission of  
1 16 the People's Republic of China to the United Nations,  
1 17 Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization  
1 18 was discontinued; and  
1 19 WHEREAS, Taiwanese health officials and medical  
1 20 professionals have been unable to participate in World  
1 21 Health Organization forums and workshops regarding  
1 22 technological advances in the diagnosis, monitoring,  
1 23 and control of diseases since 1972, and have been  
1 24 denied the right to maintain contact and coordination  
1 25 with the World Health Organization in emergency  
1 26 situations involving the containment and cure of  
1 27 existing and newly emerging infectious diseases; and  
1 28 WHEREAS, Taiwan's location at the juncture of  
1 29 important maritime routes between northeast and  
1 30 southeast Asia has resulted in extensive world trade  
2 1 with Taiwan, a thriving Taiwanese tourism industry,  
2 2 and a large foreign migrant worker population in  
2 3 Taiwan; and  
2 4 WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from the World Health  
2 5 Organization system has become a missing link in the  
2 6 global framework of providing health and medical care;  
2 7 and  
2 8 WHEREAS, the granting of observer status to Taiwan  
2 9 would not constitute a challenge to representation by  
2 10 the People's Republic of China in the World Health  
2 11 Organization and would demonstrate that the  
2 12 organization is inclusive with regard to Taiwan's 23  
2 13 million inhabitants; and  
2 14 WHEREAS, as a democratically elected government,  
2 15 the government of Taiwan has a duty and responsibility  
2 16 to ensure that the people of Taiwan are represented in  
2 17 an organization which establishes and oversees an  
2 18 international framework for the control of disease and  
2 19 the promotion of universal health; and  
2 20 WHEREAS, Taiwan has made substantial progress in  
2 21 the health field, has one of the highest life  
2 22 expectancy rates in Asia, has maternal and infant  
2 23 mortality rates comparable to those in western  
2 24 countries, has eradicated infectious diseases such as  
2 25 cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and has been the  
2 26 first country in the region to eradicate polio and  
2 27 provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and  
2 28 WHEREAS, Taiwan has expressed a willingness in  
2 29 recent years to provide financial and technological  
2 30 assistance in international aid and health activities  
3 1 supported by the World Health Organization; NOW  
3 2 THEREFORE,  
3 3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
3 4 That the House of Representatives supports the  
3 5 granting of observer status to Taiwan during the World  
3 6 Health Assembly to be held in May 2007; and  
3 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of  
3 8 this Resolution be prepared and forwarded by the Chief  
3 9 Clerk of the House of Representatives to the governing  
3 10 authority and member states of the World Health  
3 11 Organization, the World Health Assembly, and the  
3 12 governments of Taiwan and of the People's Republic of

3 13 China.  
3 14 LSB 2906YH 82  
3 15 rn:rj/es/88