

Adopted 4/15/03

FEB 5 2003
Laid Over Under Rule 25

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9
2 BY BELL, EICHHORN, and GIPP
3 A Resolution supporting a proposal to invite the
4 Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate in the
5 upcoming meeting of the World Health Assembly as an
6 observer.
7 WHEREAS, the fifty-sixth World Health Assembly
8 meeting is scheduled to take place May 19 through 28,
9 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland; and
10 WHEREAS, the Republic of China, commonly known as
11 Taiwan, was a founding member of the World Health
12 Organization and participated for 24 years as a full
13 member contributing to achieving the organization's
14 objectives; and
15 WHEREAS, in 1972, in the wake of the admission of
16 the People's Republic of China to the United Nations,
17 Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization
18 was discontinued; and
19 WHEREAS, Taiwanese health officials and medical
20 professionals have been unable to participate in World
21 Health Organization forums and workshops regarding
22 technological advances in the diagnosis, monitoring,
23 and control of diseases since 1972, and have been
24 denied the right to maintain contact and coordination
25 with the World Health Organization in emergency
26 situations involving the containment and cure of
27 existing and newly emerging infectious diseases; and
28 WHEREAS, Taiwan's location at the juncture of
29 important maritime routes between northeast and
30 southeast Asia has resulted in extensive world trade

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1 with Taiwan, a thriving Taiwanese tourism industry,
2 and a large foreign migrant worker population in
3 Taiwan; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from the World Health
5 Organization system has become a missing link in the
6 global framework of providing health and medical care;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the granting of observer status to Taiwan
9 would not constitute a challenge to representation by
10 the People's Republic of China in the World Health
11 Organization and would demonstrate that the
12 organization is inclusive with regard to Taiwan's 23
13 million inhabitants; and

14 WHEREAS, as a democratically elected government,
15 the government of Taiwan has a duty and responsibility
16 to ensure that the people of Taiwan are represented in
17 an organization which establishes and oversees an
18 international framework for the control of disease and
19 the promotion of universal health; and

20 WHEREAS, Taiwan has made substantial progress in
21 the health field, has one of the highest life
22 expectancy rates in Asia, has maternal and infant
23 mortality rates comparable to those in western
24 countries, has eradicated infectious diseases such as
25 cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and has been the
26 first country in the region to eradicate polio and
27 provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan has expressed a willingness in
29 recent years to provide financial and technological
30 assistance in international aid and health activities

1 supported by the World Health Organization; NOW

2 THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

4 That the House of Representatives supports the
5 granting of observer status to Taiwan during the World
6 Health Assembly to be held in May 2003; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
8 this Resolution be prepared and forwarded by the Chief
9 Clerk of the House of Representatives to the governing
10 authority and member states of the World Health
11 Organization, the World Health Assembly, and the
12 governments of Taiwan and of the People's Republic of
13 China.

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