

Adopted  
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FILED FEB 4 '03

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1  
2 BY BLACK, BEHN, IVERSON, and McCOY  
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

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1 supported by the World Health Organization; NOW

2 THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate  
4 supports the granting of observer status to Taiwan  
5 during the World Health Assembly to be held in May  
6 2003; and

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

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