

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Senators Raggio, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O’Connell, O’Donnell, Porter, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to support the participation of Taiwan of the Republic of China in the World Health Organization.

WHEREAS, Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right; and

WHEREAS, Participation in international health programs is crucial to world health as the potential for the spread of various infectious diseases increases proportionately with the increase in world trade and travel; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization set forth in the first chapter of its charter the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the World Health Organization established “Health for all by the year 2000” as its overriding priority and reaffirmed that commitment in 1995 with the initiation of its “Health for All” renewal process; and

WHEREAS, This country’s population of 21 million is larger than three-quarters of the member states already in the World Health Organization and Taiwan shares the noble goals of the organization; and

WHEREAS, The achievements of Taiwan in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox and the plague and the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, Before its loss of membership in the World Health Organization in 1972, Taiwan sent specialists to serve in other member countries on countless health projects and its health experts held key positions in the organization, all to the benefit of the entire Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, Presently, this remarkable country is not allowed to participate in any forums and workshops organized by the World Health Organization concerning the latest technologies in the diagnosis, monitoring and control of diseases; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, the government and the expert scientists and doctors in the field of medicine of Taiwan have expressed a willingness to assist financially or technically in international aid and health activities supported by the World Health Organization, but these offers have ultimately been refused; and

WHEREAS, According to the constitution of the World Health Organization, Taiwan does not fulfill the criteria for membership; and

WHEREAS, Because the World Health Organization does not allow observers to participate in the activities of the organization and considering all of the benefits that such participation would bring, it is in the best interests of all persons in this World that Taiwan be admitted to the World Health Organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby urge President Clinton and the Congress of the United States to support all efforts made by Taiwan of the Republic of China to gain meaningful participation in the World Health Organization; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the policy of the United States should include the pursuit of an initiative in the World Health Organization that would ensure such participation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.