

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 10, 2009

Declared an Emergency Measure

SUMMARY—Urges the President and Congress to continue to support the participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the World Health Organization. (BDR R-1013)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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

1 WHEREAS, In the first chapter of its charter, the World Health
2 Organization set forth the objective of attaining the highest possible
3 level of health for all people, and participation in international
4 health programs is crucial as the potential for the spread of
5 infectious diseases increases proportionately with increases in world
6 trade, travel and population; and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of over 23 million is larger than
8 three-fourths of the member countries who currently participate in
9 the World Health Organization; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Before its loss of membership in the World Health
18 Organization in 1972, Taiwan sent specialists to serve in other



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1 member countries on countless health projects and its health experts
2 held key positions in the organization, all to the benefit of the entire
3 Pacific region and developing countries in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been campaigning for participation in
5 the World Health Organization since 1999, but has been unable to
6 establish direct access to and communicate with the World Health
7 Organization regarding disease prevention and is restricted from
8 attending the World Health Organization technical conference and
9 activities and as a result, Taiwan can neither acquire the latest
10 medical and health updates nor receive timely assistance when
11 epidemics occur, as was the case with severe acute respiratory
12 syndrome; and

13 WHEREAS, Being the world's eighteenth largest economy and
14 the twentieth largest outbound investor, Taiwan possesses
15 significant economic strength, is the ninth largest trading partner of
16 the United States with over \$64 billion in two-way trade in 2007 and
17 has also shared a sisterhood relationship with the State of Nevada
18 since 1985; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan hopes to share its development experiences
20 with developing countries and is also willing to give back to the
21 world through humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Admittance of Taiwan to the World Health
24 Organization would bring tremendous benefits to all persons in this
25 world; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
27 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature
28 hereby urge President Barack Obama and the Congress of the
29 United States to continue to support all efforts made by the Republic
30 of China on Taiwan to gain meaningful participation in the World
31 Health Organization; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
33 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
34 States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Department of State,
36 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Nevada
37 Congressional Delegation, the Director General of the Taipei
38 Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco and the Director-
39 General of the World Health Organization; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
41 passage.

