

S-4/12/02 adopted

FILED APR 10 2002

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY BLACK

A Resolution supporting a proposal to invite the Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate in the upcoming meeting of the World Health Assembly as an observer.

WHEREAS, the next World Health Assembly meeting is scheduled to take place on May 13 through 18, 2002, in Geneva, Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan, was a founding member of the World Health Organization and participated for 24 years as a full member contributing to the achievement of the organization's objectives; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, in the wake of the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization was discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese health officials and medical professionals have been unable to participate in World Health Organization forums and workshops regarding technological advances in the diagnosis, monitoring, and control of diseases since 1972, and have been denied the right to maintain contact and coordination with the World Health Organization in emergency situations involving the containment and cure of existing and newly emerging infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's location at the juncture of important maritime routes between northeast and 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 care; and

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Taiwan has expressed a willingness in
28 recent years to provide financial and technological
29 assistance in international aid and health activities
30 supported by the World Health Organization; NOW

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1 THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
3 supports the granting of observer status to Taiwan
4 during the World Health Assembly to be held in May
5 2002; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
7 this Resolution be prepared and forwarded by the
8 Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United
9 States, the government of Taiwan, and the governing
10 authority of the World Health Organization.

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