

MAR 17 2006
Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY BELL

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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 next World Health Assembly meeting is
8 scheduled to take place on May 18, 2006, in Geneva,
9 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 the achievement of the
14 organization's 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 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

1 THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

3 That the House of Representatives supports the
4 granting of observer status to Taiwan during the World
5 Health Assembly to be held in May 2006; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
7 this Resolution be prepared and forwarded by the Chief
8 Clerk of the House to the President of the United
9 States, the government of Taiwan, the Taipei economic
10 and cultural office, located in Chicago, Illinois, and
11 the governing authority of the World Health
12 Organization.

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