

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY BEALL, BLACK, KIBBIE, McCOY, GRONSTAL, BEHN,  
BOETTGER, BOLKCOM, CONNOLLY, and IVERSON

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 18, 2006, 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

1 southeast Asia has resulted in extensive world trade  
2 with Taiwan, a thriving Taiwanese tourism industry,  
3 and a large foreign migrant worker population in  
4 Taiwan; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan's absence from the World Health  
6 Organization system has become a missing link in the  
7 global framework of providing health care; and

8 WHEREAS, the granting of observer status to Taiwan  
9 would not constitute a challenge to participation 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 by  
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

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 2006; 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 President of the United  
10 States, the government of Taiwan, the Taipei economic  
11 and cultural office, located in Chicago, Illinois, and  
12 the governing authority of the World Health  
13 Organization.

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