

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

INTRODUCED BY J. BOHLINGER

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA STRONGLY URGING THAT TAIWAN BE PERMITTED APPROPRIATE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

WHEREAS, direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is crucial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for cross-border spread of various infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements 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 the infectious diseases of cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and being the first Asian nation to eradicate polio and the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwanese counterpart have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to financially and technically assist the international aid and health activities supported by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23 million people is larger than that of 75% of the World Health Organization member states; and

WHEREAS, the United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's participation in the activities of the World Health Organization could bring many benefits to the state of health not only in Taiwan but also regionally and globally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature strongly urge that Taiwan be permitted appropriate and meaningful participation in the activities of the World Health Organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President

of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle, and the World Health Organization.

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