

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1834

A RESOLUTION urging observer status for Taiwan at the May 2002 World Health Assembly meeting.

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization will convene its annual World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland. Although the People's Republic of China has constantly blocked Taiwan from participation in world activities, the Senate of the State of Kansas urges the granting of observer status for Taiwan at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, Good health is important to every citizen of the world, and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health; and

WHEREAS, Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis and malaria; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is larger than that of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states already in the World Health Organization. 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 such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox and the plague, and the first to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to provide financial and technical assistance to aid health activities supported by the World Health Organization. In response to a severe earthquake which struck El Salvador in 2001, the Taiwanese government sent two rescue teams, consisting of 90 individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine and civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the El Salvadoran Government; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's experience in dealing successfully with important health issues at home can be of benefit not only regionally but also globally; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has acknowledged the valuable participation of Taiwan in international organizations; in addition, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, has recognized Taiwan's worldwide contribution by providing emergency assistance; therefore Taiwan should be invited to participate in an appropriate and meaningful way in the next World Health Assembly meeting which takes place in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 14, 2002: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the Senate of the State of Kansas urges the World Health Organization to permit observer status to Taiwan at the May 14, 2002, meeting of the World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to George W. Bush, President of the United States; Colin Powell, Secretary of State; Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Bill Graves, Governor of the State of Kansas and Elizabeth Chu, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, 3100 Broadway, Suite 800, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

Senate Resolution No. 1834 was sponsored by Senator Sandy Praeger.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.