

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1145

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BERA, Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. BACON, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD**

4 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
6 ings:

1           (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is  
2 a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged  
3 with coordinating health efforts within the United  
4 Nations system. The World Health Assembly  
5 (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO,  
6 which convenes annually in May to set the policies  
7 and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not  
8 a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and nu-  
9 merous observers, including non-members and non-  
10 governmental organizations, attended the most re-  
11 cent virtual WHA in May 2020.

12           (2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the  
13 WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong  
14 support from successive United States Administra-  
15 tions, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member  
16 States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait  
17 relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend  
18 the WHA as an observer under the name “Chinese  
19 Taipei”. Taiwan received the same invitation each  
20 year until 2016, when following the election of Presi-  
21 dent Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive  
22 Party, Taiwan’s engagement in the international  
23 community began facing increased resistance from  
24 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-  
25 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-

1       cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-  
2       pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. The  
3       WHO did not invite Taiwan to attend the WHA as  
4       an observer in 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.

5           (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to  
6       world health, having provided financial and technical  
7       assistance to respond to numerous global health  
8       challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in  
9       international medical and humanitarian aid efforts  
10      impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014,  
11      Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1  
12      million and providing 100,000 sets of personal pro-  
13      tective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation  
14      and Training Framework, the United States and  
15      Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for  
16      experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika.  
17      In 2020, after successfully containing the spread of  
18      the novel coronavirus within its borders while up-  
19      holding democratic principles, Taiwan generously do-  
20      nated millions of pieces of personal protective equip-  
21      ment and COVID-19 tests to countries in need.  
22      These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan’s need-  
23      less exclusion from global health cooperation in-  
24      creases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

1           (4) Taiwan’s international engagement has  
2           faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan  
3           was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the Inter-  
4           national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite  
5           participating as a guest at the organization’s prior  
6           summit in 2013. Taiwan’s requests to participate in  
7           the General Assembly of the International Criminal  
8           Police Organization (INTERPOL) have also been  
9           rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a  
10          meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict dia-  
11          monds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from  
12          Taiwan were asked to leave. Since 2016, the Demo-  
13          cratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Re-  
14          public of Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina  
15          Faso, the Republic of El Salvador, the Solomon Is-  
16          lands, and the Republic of Kiribati have terminated  
17          longstanding diplomatic relationships with Taiwan  
18          and granted diplomatic recognition to the PRC.

19          (5) Congress has established a policy of support  
20          for Taiwan’s participation in international bodies  
21          that address shared transnational challenges, par-  
22          ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794  
23          in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Con-  
24          gress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct  
25          the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for,

1 and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to ob-  
2 tain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Con-  
3 gress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress,  
4 directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to  
5 gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assem-  
6 bly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing  
7 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-  
8 server status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assem-  
9 bly. However, since 2016 Taiwan has not received  
10 an invitation to attend any of these events as an ob-  
11 server.

12 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE  
13 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-  
14 GANIZATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1  
16 of Public Law 108–235 (118 Stat. 656) is amended  
17 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

18 “(3) An account of the changes and improve-  
19 ments the Secretary of State has made to the  
20 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer  
21 status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly,  
22 following any annual meetings of the World Health  
23 Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer  
24 status.”.

1           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
2           by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-  
3           ning with the first report required under subsection  
4           (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is sub-  
5           mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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