

**Introduced by Senator Polanco**

May 1, 2002

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Senate Resolution No. 29—Relative to Taiwan and the World Health Organization.

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is  
11 larger than that of three-quarters of the member states already in  
12 the World Health Organization (WHO); and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are  
14 substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in  
15 Asia; maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of  
16 western countries; the eradication of such infectious diseases as  
17 cholera, smallpox, and the plague; and being the first country in  
18 Asia to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B  
19 vaccinations; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and  
21 Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close  
22 collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

1 WHEREAS, In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness  
2 to assist financially and technically in international aid and health  
3 activities; and

4 WHEREAS, The World Health Assembly has allowed  
5 observers to participate in the activities of the organization,  
6 including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order  
7 of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950s; and

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

11 WHEREAS, In light of all the benefits that Taiwan's  
12 participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only  
13 in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its  
14 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful  
15 participation in the WHO; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the  
17 Senate commends the Republic of China on Taiwan on its  
18 contributions to promote world health; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Senate respectfully memorializes the  
20 President and Congress of the United States to take action  
21 necessary to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the  
22 annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in ~~May~~  
23 ~~2002~~ in Geneva, Switzerland; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
25 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
26 States, to each Senator and Representative from California in the  
27 Congress of the United States, to the United States Secretary of  
28 Health and Human Services, to the United States Secretary of  
29 State, to the Director General of the World Health Organization,  
30 and to the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural  
31 Office in Los Angeles.

