
Introduced by Senator Margett

April 22, 2002

Senate Joint Resolution No. 43—Relative to Taiwan and the World Health Organization.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 43, as introduced, Margett. World Health Organization: Taiwan.

This measure would declare the support of the Legislature of the State of California for Taiwan to gain observer status in the World Health Organization.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization's (WHO)
2 Constitution stipulates that the enjoyment of the highest attainable
3 standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human
4 being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, or
5 economic or social condition; and
6 WHEREAS, Direct and unobstructed worldwide participation
7 in international health cooperative forums and programs is crucial
8 for all regions of the world, given the potential for a global public
9 health threat of emerging infectious diseases, epidemics, and
10 drug-resistant infectious agents that do not recognize international
11 boundaries; and
12 WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is
13 larger than three-quarters of the member states already in the
14 WHO; and
15 WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are
16 substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in

1 Asia; maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of
2 western countries; the eradication of such infectious diseases as
3 cholera, smallpox, and the plague; and being the first country in
4 Asia to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B
5 vaccinations; and

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

9 WHEREAS, In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness
10 to assist financially and technically in international aid and health
11 activities supported by the WHO; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan has contributed approximately \$100
13 million in aid to 78 countries over the past seven years, provided
14 essential practical assistance and financial aid to El Salvador
15 following the terrible earthquake of January 14, 2001, and is
16 currently providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan; and

17 WHEREAS, The World Health Assembly has allowed
18 observers to participate in the activities of the WHO, including the
19 Palestine Liberation Organization, the Order of Malta, and Puerto
20 Rico; and

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

24 WHEREAS, California, in Resolution Chapter 119 of the
25 Statutes of 1994, declared its support for Taiwan's participation in
26 the international community, including the United Nations; and

27 WHEREAS, In light of all the benefits that Taiwan's
28 participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only
29 in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its citizens
30 should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the
31 WHO; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
33 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby
34 declares its support for Taiwan's request for observer status in the
35 WHO, and calls on the member states of the WHO to support the
36 application for observer status to be granted to Taiwan at the
37 annual weeklong summit of the World Health Assembly to be held
38 in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2002; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
40 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United



1 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
2 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
3 United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of
4 Health and Human Services, to the United States Secretary of
5 State, and to the Director General of the Taipei Economic and
6 Cultural Office in Los Angeles.

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