

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 812

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD**
2 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

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

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

1 community began facing increased resistance from
2 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-
3 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-
4 cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-
5 pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. The
6 WHO did not invite Taiwan to attend the WHA as
7 an observer in 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.

8 (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to
9 world health, having provided financial and technical
10 assistance to respond to numerous global health
11 challenges. Taiwan has invested over
12 \$6,000,000,000 in international medical and human-
13 itarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries since
14 1996. In 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis
15 by donating \$1,000,000 and providing 100,000 sets
16 of personal protective equipment. Through the Glob-
17 al Cooperation and Training Framework, the United
18 States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training
19 programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue
20 Fever, and Zika. In 2020, after successfully con-
21 taining the spread of the novel coronavirus within its
22 borders while upholding democratic principles, Tai-
23 wan generously donated millions of pieces of per-
24 sonal protective equipment and COVID–19 tests to
25 countries in need. These diseases know no borders,

1 and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health
2 cooperation increases the dangers presented by glob-
3 al pandemics.

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

22 (5) Congress has established a policy of support
23 for Taiwan's participation in international bodies
24 that address shared transnational challenges, par-
25 ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794

1 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Con-
2 gress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct
3 the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for,
4 and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to ob-
5 tain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Con-
6 gress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress,
7 directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to
8 gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assem-
9 bly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing
10 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-
11 server status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assem-
12 bly. However, since 2016, Taiwan has not received
13 an invitation to attend any of these events as an ob-
14 server.

15 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE
16 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-
17 GANIZATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1
19 of the Act entitled, “To address the participation of
20 Taiwan in the World Health Organization” (Public
21 Law 108–235; 22 U.S.C. 290 note) is amended by
22 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

23 “(3) An account of the changes and improve-
24 ments the Secretary of State has made to the
25 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer

1 status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly,
2 following any annual meetings of the World Health
3 Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer
4 status.”.

5 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
6 by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-
7 ning with the first report required under subsection
8 (c) of section 1 of the Act entitled, “To address the
9 participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organi-
10 zation” (Public Law 108–235; 22 U.S.C. 290 note)
11 that is submitted after the date of the enactment of
12 this Act.

Passed the Senate August 6 (legislative day, August
5), 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 812

AN ACT

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.