



## **The National Association of Secretaries of State**

*Resolution Supporting Taiwan's Request for Observer Status in the WHO*

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

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) set forth in the first chapter of its charter the objective of attaining the highest possible levels of health for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 diseases as cholera, smallpox, the Plague, and polio, and the administration of Hepatitis B vaccinations for children; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the threat of cross-border spread of disease, such as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), tuberculosis, malaria, and the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), it is crucial for Taiwan to have direct and unobstructed access to information and assistance from the WHO in order to successfully limit the spread of infections and achieve world health; and

**WHEREAS**, Taiwan's 23.5 million population is larger than that of 75 percent of the member states already in the WHO; and

**WHEREAS**, Taiwan has been eagerly willing and voluntarily assisting financially and technically in international health activities supported by the WHO, and donating generously to disaster areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwanese counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, President George W. Bush and senior members of his administration vocalized support for Taiwan's participation in the WHO; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the European Parliament called on the World Health Assembly to accept observer status for Taiwan, and its member states to support the application of Taiwan as an observer to the WHO; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, both houses of the United States Congress authorized the Secretary of State to endorse observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly; and in 2003, the United States House of Representatives passed *HR 441* in support of Taiwan's participation as an observer in the WHO; therefore

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) commends the efforts of Taiwan to promote world health and supports its participation as an observer in the World Health Organization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NASS is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization.