



NASS Resolution in Support of the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) Request for Observer Status in the World Health Organization (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 first chapter of the World Health Organization's (WHO) charter sets forth the objective of attaining the highest possible levels of health for all people; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) population of 23 million is larger than seventy-five percent of the member states already in the WHO; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy rates in Asia, and its medical missions have been welcomed in countries such as Haiti, Guatemala, Kenya, and the Solomon Islands; and

WHEREAS, due to the threat of cross-border spread of disease, such as the Human Immunodeficiency Disease (HIV), tuberculosis, malaria, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and avian flu, it is crucial for all countries, including the Republic of China (Taiwan), to have direct and unobstructed access to information and assistance from the WHO in order to successfully limit the spread of various infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has been eagerly willing and voluntarily assisting financially and technically in international health activities supported by the WHO, and has rushed to aid disaster areas, including South Asia following the 2004 tsunami and Indonesia following its 2005 earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention and its counterpart agencies in the Republic of China (Taiwan) have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate authorized the Secretary of State to endorse observer status for the Republic of China (Taiwan) at the World Health Assembly and the House of Representatives repeated its endorsement in 2006;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) commends the efforts of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to promote world health and supports its efforts to gain observer status in the World Health Organization;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the National Association of Secretaries of State shall send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, and TECRO.

Expires: Summer 2013

ADOPTED the 28th day of July
in Grand Rapids, MI