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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. CONNOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

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,*

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

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
6 ings:

7 (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is  
8 a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged

1 with coordinating health efforts within the United  
2 Nations system. The World Health Assembly  
3 (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO,  
4 which convenes annually in May to set the policies  
5 and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not  
6 a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and nu-  
7 merous observers, including non-members and non-  
8 governmental organizations, attended the most re-  
9 cent WHA in May 2017.

10 (2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the  
11 WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong  
12 support from successive United States Administra-  
13 tions, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member  
14 States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait  
15 relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend  
16 the WHA as an observer under the name “Chinese  
17 Taipei”. Taiwan received the same invitation each  
18 year until 2016, when following the election of Presi-  
19 dent Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive  
20 Party, Taiwan’s engagement in the international  
21 community began facing increased resistance from  
22 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-  
23 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-  
24 cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-

1       pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. In 2017,  
2       Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the WHA.

3           (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to  
4       world health, having provided financial and technical  
5       assistance to respond to numerous global health  
6       challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in  
7       international medical and humanitarian aid efforts  
8       impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014,  
9       Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1  
10      million and providing 100,000 sets of personal pro-  
11      tective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation  
12      and Training Framework, the United States and  
13      Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for  
14      experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika.  
15      These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan’s need-  
16      less exclusion from global health cooperation in-  
17      creases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

18           (4) Taiwan’s international engagement has  
19      faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan  
20      was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the Inter-  
21      national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite  
22      participating as a guest at the organization’s prior  
23      summit in 2013. Taiwan’s request to participate in  
24      the 2016 General Assembly of the International  
25      Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was also

1 rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a  
2 meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict dia-  
3 monds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from  
4 Taiwan were asked to leave. In June 2017, the Re-  
5 public of Panama granted diplomatic recognition to  
6 the PRC, terminating a longstanding diplomatic re-  
7 lationship with Taiwan.

8 (5) Congress has established a policy of support  
9 for Taiwan's participation in international bodies  
10 that address shared transnational challenges, par-  
11 ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R.1794 in  
12 the 106th Congress, H.R.428 in the 107th Congress,  
13 and S.2092 in the 108th Congress to direct the Sec-  
14 retary of State to establish a strategy for, and to re-  
15 port annually to Congress on, efforts to obtain ob-  
16 server status for Taiwan at the WHA. Congress also  
17 passed H.R.1151 in the 113th Congress, directing  
18 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-  
19 server status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assembly, and  
20 H.R.1853 in the 114th Congress, directing the Sec-  
21 retary to report on a strategy to gain observer status  
22 for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assembly. However,  
23 in 2016 Taiwan did not receive invitations to attend  
24 any of these events as an observer.

1 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE  
2 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-  
3 GANIZATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1  
5 of Public Law 108–235 (118 Stat. 656) is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(3) An account of the changes and improve-  
8 ments the Secretary of State has made to the  
9 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer  
10 status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly,  
11 following any annual meetings of the World Health  
12 Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer  
13 status.”.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
15 by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-  
16 ning with the first report required under subsection  
17 (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is sub-  
18 mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.