

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 41

## 92<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5092L.011

1                   **Whereas**, good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the  
2 highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health;  
3 and  
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5                   **Whereas**, direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation  
6 forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially today with the great  
7 potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human  
8 immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria; and  
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10                  **Whereas**, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is greater than three-fourths  
11 of the member states already in the World Health Organization (WHO); and  
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13                  **Whereas**, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including:  
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15                   (1) Attaining one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, and maternal and infant  
16 mortality rates comparable to those of western countries; and  
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18                   (2) Eradicating such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, the plague, and polio; and  
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20                   (3) Providing children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and  
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22                  **Whereas**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its  
23 counterpart agencies in Taiwan have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health  
24 issues; and  
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26       **Whereas**, in recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially  
27 and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO; and  
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29       **Whereas**, on January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registering between 7.6 and 7.9 of  
30 the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese Government sent two rescue  
31 teams, consisting of ninety individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and civil  
32 engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to  
33 the Salvadoran Government; and  
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35       **Whereas**, the World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate in the  
36 activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order  
37 of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950s; and  
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39       **Whereas**, the United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its  
40 intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; and  
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42       **Whereas**, in light of all benefits that Taiwan's participation in WHO can bring to  
43 the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its  
44 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the WHO; and  
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46       **Whereas**, in 2003, the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)  
47 caused 73 deaths in Taiwan; and  
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49       **Whereas**, avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, has reemerged in Asia,  
50 with strains of the influenza reported by the People's Republic of China, Cambodia, Indonesia,  
51 Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos; and  
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53       **Whereas**, the SARS and avian influenza outbreaks illustrate that disease knows  
54 no boundaries and emphasize the importance of allowing all people access to the WHO; and  
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56       **Whereas**, as the pace of globalization quickens and the spread of infectious disease  
57 accelerates, it is crucial that all people, including the people of Taiwan, be given the opportunity  
58 to participate in international health organizations such as the WHO:  
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60       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
61 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
62 concurring therein, hereby support observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit  
63 of the World Health Assembly (WHA) held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in May  
64 of each year in Geneva, Switzerland; and  
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66       **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
67 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
68 World Health Organization.