STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 60

By: Fisher of the Senate

and

Adair of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution commending the Republic of China on Taiwan for its contributions to promoting world health; supporting their bid to obtain "observer status" in the World Health Organization (WHO); and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, good health is essential to every citizen of the world, and access to the highest standards of health services and information 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 level of health for all people; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2002, the United States Senate passed House Resolution 2739 (introduced and passed by the United States House of Representatives in December 2001), a bill endorsing and supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's bid to obtain "observer status" at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Parliament also passed a joint resolution to grant "observer status" to the Republic of China on Taiwan for the conference; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China on 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 infectious diseases, such as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and

the first entity in Asia to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and

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

WHEREAS, in recent years the Republic of China on Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international health activities supported by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, direct, unobstructed participation in international health forums and programs is critical to limiting the spread of various infectious diseases and achieving world health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends the Republic of China on Taiwan for its contributions to promoting world health.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports the bid of the Republic of China on Taiwan to obtain “observer status” at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Mr. Andrew H. Card, Jr., Chief of Staff to the President of the United States; Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Secretary General of the World Health Organization; and Mr. Edward Feng, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

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