

**Testimony of Jonathan Fritz
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Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Subcommittee on
East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
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Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. It is my honor to speak with you about our partnership with Taiwan and our efforts to coordinate with like-minded partners to promote Taiwan's international space and deter conflict in the Taiwan Strait.

Since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has endeavored to unilaterally alter the status quo in cross-Strait relations and isolate Taiwan from the international community. The PRC's increasing pressure and aggressive behavior toward Taiwan endanger the very stability that has allowed the region to peacefully prosper.

Despite President Tsai's determination to maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, Beijing has been unwilling to engage with her. The PRC has continued to apply military, diplomatic, and economic pressure on Taiwan, a democratic partner with whom we share common values and a common vision for a prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific region.

To counter Beijing's attempt to intimidate Taiwan and alter the status quo, we will continue to make available to Taiwan the defense articles and services necessary for Taiwan's self-defense capability, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act and our "one China" policy. The United States notified more than \$32 billion worth of arms to Taiwan since 2009, but arms sale alone cannot ensure Taiwan's ability to defend itself. Our expanding security cooperation seeks to encourage Taiwan to prioritize capabilities that complicate PRC planning for an invasion, including small, mobile, cost-effective systems like coastal defense cruise missiles and reserve force reform to strengthen Taiwan society's ability to resist in a conflict.

Beijing has also executed a concerted campaign to entice Taiwan's few remaining diplomatic partners to discontinue official ties in favor of the PRC, has pressured countries to deny permission for new Taiwan representative offices that would

conduct unofficial relations, and has continued to pressure UN agencies to prevent Taiwan from meaningfully participating in these agencies' work.

Strong U.S. support for Taiwan's international space is paramount in light of this coercive behavior. Today, Taiwan has just 15 diplomatic partners after losing seven since President Tsai's inauguration in 2016. These partners are a crucial source of support for Taiwan, and they advocate publicly and privately for Taiwan's membership or meaningful participation in international organizations.

To support Taiwan's unofficial relationships, U.S. missions throughout the world engage with Taiwan's local representative offices. U.S. leadership in expanding our engagement with Taiwan representatives encourages other governments to do the same despite PRC objections. Our newly liberalized guidelines for engagement with Taiwan representatives were warmly welcomed by our Taiwan counterparts, including Representative Bi-khim Hsiao of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

Facilitated by the American Institute in Taiwan, the United States supports Taiwan's international space through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework. The GCTF provides training and technical assistance to third-country participants, building support for Taiwan around the world and demonstrating the value of Taiwan's participation on the global stage. Since its inception in 2015, the GCTF has featured dozens of workshops that have provided training to over a thousand participants. The specifically appropriated \$3 million in funding to support GCTF for the first time this year will significantly expand the program's reach.

Additionally, the State Department's Office of Global Partnerships (GP), in coordination with AIT and TECRO, held three virtual Partnership Opportunity Delegations to facilitate exchange between the public and private sectors of the United States and Taiwan in Paraguay, Eswatini, and St. Lucia.

To build resiliency in Taiwan against economic coercion from Beijing, we are committed to deepening trade, investment, and other economic ties with Taiwan. In November 2020, we established the Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue with Taiwan to discuss key economic issues, such as supply chain security, investment screening, and science & technology. Such efforts advance U.S. interests and help diversify Taiwan's economy away from being overly reliant on the PRC. We will continue to strengthen U.S. economic ties with Taiwan as an important priority.

While challenges remain, we will continue deepening our ties with Taiwan in the face of PRC efforts to apply pressure on Taiwan and its partners. In April, President Biden continued those efforts by sending an unofficial delegation of retired U.S. officials to Taiwan, led by former Senator Chris Dodd. The delegation marked the 42nd anniversary of the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act and sent an important signal about the lasting U.S. commitment to Taiwan and its democracy. Last week the Biden-Harris administration announced a plan for sharing vaccine donations internationally, including with Taiwan. We were grateful for Senators Duckworth, Sullivan, and Coons' visit to Taiwan to announce our vaccine donation and underscore our appreciation for Taiwan's assistance to the United States in the earliest days of the pandemic.

Moving forward, we will seek and consider opportunities for visits to Washington and Taipei that advance our unofficial relationship and enable substantive exchanges on issues of mutual concern.

Bipartisan Congressional support for our unofficial relationship with Taiwan has been paramount in the successful and consistent articulation of our longstanding "one China" policy. Moving forward, we will rely on Congressional support to facilitate shared objectives, including through appropriations related to implementing the CHIPS Act, which could help to secure American supply chains in advanced semiconductors and diversify Taiwan's production base.

Now, I would like to give the floor to my colleague, Ambassador Barks-Ruggles, who will further explain our efforts to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations.

Thank you.