

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20, 1211
Geneva 27, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Tedros,


We write to express strong bipartisan support within the U.S. Senate for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) and the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) meetings. We are deeply concerned by Taiwan's historic exclusion from WHO and WHA meetings, technical exchanges, and other consultative mechanisms. As our experience with the COVID pandemic has demonstrated, it is imperative that global health diplomacy channels remain open and inclusive of all jurisdictions so that we are best able to address challenges in the complex landscape of international health crises. We therefore urge you to make every effort to support Taiwan's meaningful participation and to oppose proscriptive efforts to circumscribe Taiwan's engagement.

In recent years, the People's Republic of China has used United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 as a pretext to obstruct Taiwan's engagement with the international community. It is crucial to clarify that Resolution 2758 addressed only the issue of China's representation in the United Nations; it did not, in any part, determine Taiwan's status or explicitly prohibit Taiwan's participation in UN agencies and other international fora, including the WHO and the WHA. Furthermore, the resolution does not restrict any state from maintaining or pursuing diplomatic relationships with Taiwan.

Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO and WHA undermines the WHO's mission to build a healthier future for the global community. Taiwan has demonstrated robust healthcare capabilities, and its global health contributions, particularly visible during the COVID-19 pandemic, have proven indispensable. Taiwan's proactive and transparent response to health emergencies, as well as its willingness to share expertise and resources, underscores the value it brings to global health initiatives. Denying Taiwan the opportunity to participate in the WHO and the WHA weakens the global health architecture's ability to respond effectively to health challenges. As the world continues to navigate emergent health threats, it is more critical than ever to leverage every resource available to advance the resilience of global health systems.

We look forward to your response in addressing this critical issue ahead of the forthcoming meeting of the WHA in late May.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Chris A. Coons
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator