

are in a unique situation. They are the economic poster children for a failed trade policy and the sacrificial lamb in a failed foreign policy war to end drug trafficking.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California just referred to my friend from Oregon as a Bearcat. I never heard that before, but it is probably applicable. I agree with the gentleman from California, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) will indeed be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I only wanted to rise to thank my friend, the gentleman from California, for his kind words, and my dear friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), for bringing this issue to us, as well as the chairman of the full committee. I appreciate it very much. It is an important piece of legislation for us. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1197, the Plant Patent Amendments Act of 1997. I would like to take a moment to thank Chairman COBLE of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property and Chairman HYDE of the Full Judiciary Committee for allowing me to bring this important bill to the floor today. I would also like to take a moment and thank my colleague from California, Representative SAM FARR, for his hard work in bringing this important matter to the floor today.

We are here today to reaffirm the protection of patents by U.S. growers that has already been passed overwhelmingly by the House in April of last year as part of the Omnibus Patent Act of 1997, H.R. 400. Unfortunately, that bill is not expected to be approved by the other body. My legislation, H.R. 1197, is simply the stand-alone version of that section of the bill already passed by the House. It addresses an issue that has long needed clarification. Agricultural producers can not afford to wait another year for the protection from bootleggers of plant parts this bill provides.

H.R. 1197 is a simple technical clarification to a loophole in the Plant Patent Act of 1930. When Congress drafted the Plant Patent Act of 1930, it had no way of knowing the technological advances that science, and the agricultural industry, would make in the growing of plants. Plant breeders and growers in the U.S. are being denied the protection intended by Congress when it enacted the Plant Patent Act of 1930 because of an ambiguity in the law. H.R. 1197 clarifies this ambiguity by specifically including the coverage of plant parts in the Plant Patent Act of 1930. U.S. breeders and growers of patented plants are incurring substantial losses from unauthorized propagation of their plant inventions in foreign countries, and the subsequent export to the U.S. of plant parts such as flowers and fruit harvested from these bootlegged plants.

Currently, foreign growers can come to the U.S., acquire a plant, grow the plant, and then

sell its fruits or flowers in U.S. markets without paying any royalty. This practice undercuts U.S. businesses that own the patents and penalizes growers who honor the U.S. patent. U.S. plant breeders lose a substantial amount of income annually from uncollected royalty payments due to this practice.

The loss of royalty income, and U.S. market share, adversely affects U.S. domestic research and breeding. This lost income inhibits investment in the plant research and development programs which are the foundation of a strong horticultural industry. Additionally, those who sell plant parts from unauthorized plants, and do not pay royalties for varieties illegally grown, enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over both producers who pay royalties and the patent holder who also markets the product.

It is time to clarify the Plant Patent Act of 1930 and protect U.S. businesses who develop and produce the plants that we all use and enjoy. Please join me and my fellow colleagues here today and pass H.R. 1197.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1197.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, who is momentarily delayed, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 334) relating to Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 334

Whereas good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right;

Whereas direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is therefore crucial, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as AIDS and Hong Kong bird flu through increased trade and travel;

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;

Whereas in 1977 the World Health Organization established "Health for all by the year 2000" as its overriding priority and reaffirmed that central vision with the initiation of its "Health For All" renewal process in 1995;

Whereas Taiwan's population of 21,000,000 people is larger than that of ¾ of the member states already in the World Health Organization and shares the noble goals of the organization;

Whereas 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 such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, the first Asian nation to be rid of polio, and the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations;

Whereas prior to 1972 and its loss of membership in the World Health Organization, Taiwan sent specialists to serve in other member countries on countless health projects and its health experts held key positions in the organization, all to the benefit of the entire Pacific region;

Whereas Taiwan is not allowed to participate in any WHO-organized forums and workshops concerning the latest technologies in the diagnosis, monitoring, and control of diseases;

Whereas in recent years both the Taiwanese Government and individual Taiwanese experts have expressed a willingness to assist financially or technically in WHO-supported international aid and health activities, but have ultimately been unable to render such assistance;

Whereas according to the constitution of the World Health Organization, Taiwan does not fulfill the criteria for membership;

Whereas the World Health Organization does allow observers to participate in the activities of the organization; and

Whereas in light of all of the benefits that such participation could bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Taiwan and its 21,000,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the World Health Organization; and

(2) it should be United States policy to pursue some initiative in the World Health Organization which will give Taiwan meaningful participation in a manner that is consistent with such organization's requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I could not share the time with a more distinguished gentleman than my good friend.

Again, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our very, very distinguished and great chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the committee which I had the privilege of serving on for many, many years until someone we know named Robert Michel drug me kicking and screaming off of that committee and gave me a chance to serve

on the Committee on Rules, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for the support of this legislation. He is one of the major sponsors. He is a friend of our great friend and ally, the Republic of China on Taiwan.

I cannot help but think how things have a way of coming about full circle. As a freshman Member of this body 20 years ago, the first bill I worked on was the Taiwan Relations Act. I still believe that the legislation is one of the most significant achievements of my career and certainly of the whole period in which I have served in this Congress. Again, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) was an integral part of that whole legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Members who have come to the House more recently may wonder why it is that so many of us more senior Members from both sides of the aisle are so concerned about Taiwan. Let me tell the Members why.

When President Carter broke off diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of recognizing Communist mainland China, that marked the only time in 210 years of constitutional history that our government has broken relations with a treaty ally without provocation and during a time of peace.

Whatever Members may have thought about the merits or the demerits of recognizing mainland Communist China, Members from both sides of the aisle at all points on the philosophical spectrum realized that a profoundly important and potentially dangerous precedent was being established by doing just that. Members reasoned that if America is seen as being unfaithful to its allies, America will soon have no allies at all.

So the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted as a way of assuring the people of Taiwan that America was not abandoning them and that the representatives of the American people, we Members of Congress, overwhelmingly stood solidly with them, regardless of the fact that the President, having the constitutional authority to conduct foreign policy, saw fit to derecognize them at that time. The entire world, and especially our other allies in Asia, needed that same reassurance.

In the years since then, many Members, myself included, have served as watchdogs to make sure that the Taiwan Relations Act, and that is the law of the land right today, Mr. Speaker, is adhered to in both the letter and the spirit of law.

The most important thing to be concerned about is that nothing be done, nothing ever be done, by omission or by commission, that can be construed as undercutting Taiwan or pressuring Taiwan to yield to coercion from mainland China. Mainland China is very good about doing that. They are great intimidators.

Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act was a creative response to the unprecedented diplomatic challenge posed by the desire, in fact, the need, to

maintain and protect close ties with a historic friend that found itself laboring under the burden of an ambiguous national identity, and still does.

One would have hoped that similarly creative thinking would have been done in various international institutions around the world, but that has not been especially forthcoming, and again, the reason is through the direct intimidation by the Communist Peoples' Republic of China.

Nevertheless, we have an opportunity today to do something positive. The resolution before us expresses the sense of Congress that Taiwan and its 21 million people, 21 million people, should have an appropriate and meaningful representation in the World Health Organization, and that the Clinton administration is urged to pursue an initiative to that end. That is what this resolution is all about.

Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a good place to start this, it is the World Health Organization. Let me tell the Members why. The World Health Organization is a humanitarian organization, as we all know. It is one of the few important international organizations that is not infected with what I call a political agenda. It is not prone to the bureaucratic growth, as most of these international organizations are.

Taiwan, and Members all should listen to this, Taiwan was a charter member of the World Health Organization and, as the resolution notes, made important contributions to the global fight against disease before being deprived of membership in 1972.

Taiwan has continued progress since then in eradicating disease and in establishing high standards of public health at home. That in fact means that it can contribute even more to the world today if the programs and cooperative forums of the World Health Organization were open to Taiwan's participation, again, with 21 million people.

Let me tell the Members how significant 21 million people is. We cannot pretend that a free and prosperous and advanced society of that many people does not exist. Indeed, Taiwan, and this is a point that I wanted to make, Taiwan has a larger population than three-fourths of the Members of the World Health Organization. Can Members imagine that?

Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls for those 21 million people to have an appropriate and meaningful participation in the World Health Organization. That is what it does. Surely the imagination exists to find a way to do that. If there ever is a problem, it would seem to be a matter of will.

But let this House make its voice heard, that Taiwan deserves to participate in the important work of the World Health Organization, and their 21 million need and deserve to be the beneficiaries of that organization. Taiwan has an awful lot to contribute.

Mr. Speaker, for this resolution I would just hope it would pass unani-

mously. I would like to give great credit for the wording of this resolution to my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. DOUGLAS BEREUTER), a classmate of mine 20 years ago. We helped also to write the Taiwan Relations Act. I would like to pay tribute to him and to the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) as I have spoken of before for his consideration.

This probably is the last time that he and I will collaborate here on this floor on a matter of common concern, and I thank him for all of his help through the years, both the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and him.

Also, I think I saw the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) come in. I would just like to also thank him for his interest on this issue. He and I were in Taiwan not too long ago, and he feels as strongly as I do about this measure.

Once again, I urge support of it, Mr. Speaker, and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) may control the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his support and leadership, as well as the management of this legislation now pending before our colleagues.

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I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for his eloquent remarks. Over the years, I have always respected his tremendous knowledge about Taiwan, and the rest of Southeast Asia for that matter, and his strong feelings about our security interests in this part of the world.

I want to commend also the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for his participation and also working and providing this resolution that is now before us. Of course, my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for his important role in initially bringing this issue to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a simple one. It States the sense of the Congress that Taiwan should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, and it endorses an American policy that seeks to find a role for Taiwan, or the Republic of China, in the World Health Organization in a manner that is consistent with the World Health Organization's Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I will note for my colleagues in the House that even the nonself-governing territories of the United States also participate actively with several programs offered by the World Health Organization. In fact, over the years the World Health Organization has provided scholarships for students from these insular areas, particularly in the areas of medicine, dentistry and nursing school. This scholarship program has been of tremendous assistance to these nonself-governing territories.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan currently is conducting discussions and dialogue with the leadership of the People's Republic of China and we think this is a positive step to lessen the tensions between Taiwan, or the Republic of China, and the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, with a population of some 21 million people, Taiwan has achieved over the years one of the economic miracles of Asia. Taiwan currently has one of the most stable economies throughout Southeast Asia with foreign exchange reserves well over \$100 billion. Taiwan was the first Asian Nation to eradicate the dreaded disease polio. Taiwan also was the first country in the world to provide its children vaccinations to combat hepatitis B.

Mr. Speaker, with its tremendous resources and expertise available to the fields of health care services, I honestly believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Republic of China, or Taiwan, should become a member of the World Health Organization. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 334 regarding Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

First, I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Rules and my good friend, for introducing and advocating this measure. This body will certainly miss his outstanding leadership as chairman of our Committee on Rules and his continued interest in our Nation's security and in our foreign policy. We thank the gentleman for his continued advocacy, not only on behalf of Taiwan, but so many other nations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for helping to craft appropriate language for this resolution, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for his perseverance on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we all agree that good health is a basic human right of people everywhere. That right, though, can only be guaranteed if all people have unfettered access to all available resources regarding health care.

The World Health Organization, a United Nations body which has 191 participating entities, is one of those important resources. But today, regrettably, Taiwan, a Nation of 21 million people, has been denied a share in that basic human right. That is wrong, and it is time for the House to go on record correcting that.

Denying Taiwan participation in the World Health Organization is not justifiable in this day and age. Good health is a fundamental right of all people and the people of Taiwan are no exception.

United States support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization is appropriate. In today's modern global environment, Taiwan's meaningful involvement in World Health Organization activities will benefit the people of Taiwan and the world as well.

So, it is time for the Clinton administration to do the right thing, to take affirmative action, and to seek appropriate participation for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

There are opportunities for Taiwan to pursue observer status which would allow the people of Taiwan to participate in a substantive manner in the scientific and health activities of the WHO.

Consequently, I call upon the administration to pursue all initiatives in the WHO which will allow these 21 million people to share in the health benefits that the WHO can provide. That is the right thing to do and, accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), my friend.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 334, a bill to support Taiwan's efforts to participate in the World Health Organization. I especially want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for his leadership and perseverance on this issue. Also the good work of the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for his work on this, and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) as chairs of the subcommittee and committee, respectively, for their assistance and good work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, every individual, regardless of political or economic background, should have access to first-rate

medical care. I am pleased that this Congress is finally considering this important legislation before we adjourn this year.

Since 1972, the 21 million people of Taiwan have been blocked from participating in the World Health Organization. As a consequence, especially the children of Taiwan have needlessly suffered because their doctors are denied access to the latest WHO protocols.

Unfortunately, with each passing year, administration after administration in this country have contributed to Taiwan's plight by supporting China's assertion that its neighbor is not a nation and, therefore, should not be represented in the international community.

The fact of the matter is that participation for Taiwan in the World Health Organization poses no threat to Beijing's security but will actually enhance the quality of life for China 1.2 billion inhabitants in addition to Taiwan's 21 million citizens.

The WHO is not a political organization, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) pointed out. Disregarding political parties, political philosophies, or political boundaries, the WHO works to eradicate and control disease and improve the health of people around the world. It has instituted highly effective immunization programs allowing hundreds of millions of children to live longer and better lives.

The WHO has already helped protect eight out of ten children worldwide from major childhood diseases, including tuberculosis and measles and has worked to reduce the infant mortality rate 40 percent since 1970. Mr. Speaker, we should all be deeply upset by our country's refusal to help Taiwan conquer diseases which we ourselves have already exterminated.

Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO has been tragic. While the President was visiting China this past July, scores of Taiwanese children were fighting for their lives against a new deadly flu-like virus which attacks the muscle sacs around the surrounding heart, brain, and upper spine. Over 70 infants died, and possibly 100,000 other children have become infected and face an uncertain future.

This tragedy further illustrates the importance of Taiwan's membership in the WHO and the need to access the valuable expertise of this respected body. Young children and older citizens are particularly vulnerable to a host of emerging infectious diseases are without the knowledge and expertise shared among the member nations of the World Health Organization.

With increased travel and trade among the members of our global village, disease obviously does not stop at national borders and national boundaries. When we learn of outbreaks of an enterovirus in Taiwan, Ebola in Central Africa, or the Asian Bird Flu in Hong Kong, it is vital that the WHO be

allowed to combat our nation's vulnerability to spreading infectious diseases before it reaches our shores.

Erecting boundaries to shared information which would help improve the health of every American is a foolish and a deadly policy. Twenty years ago, a mysterious and fatal virus from Africa first appeared in New York and San Francisco. Our national health care system, which is the finest in the world, was ill-prepared for the spread of what we now know to be the AIDS virus. Two decades later, AIDS has spread to all 50 States and killed over 100,000 Americans. It is not in our interest to limit membership in an organization which is dedicated to combating infectious disease.

Denying Taiwan the knowledge and the expertise of the WHO is a fundamental violation of human rights. With just under 22 million people, Taiwan's population is larger than 70 percent of the 191 members of the WHO, whose charter clearly states that membership shall be open to all states.

Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world, and Taiwan's participation in the WHO would greatly help foster that right for its people. The people of Taiwan and their democratically elected government face many serious threats to their sovereignty. Chinese aggression and their continuing threat of force to settle their claim to Taiwan is a serious problem. Equally threatening is their efforts to continue to thwart Taiwan's efforts to help improve the health of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we are the only country in the world which can stand up to China and the international community. We have an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to support the Taiwanese people in their efforts to determine their own future. I call on all my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 334, and to help Taiwan participate in the World Health Organization.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for his supportive remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 334 relating to the appropriate participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization. I commend my colleague and classmate, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman of the Committee on Rules, for his initiative on crafting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, there is strong support for the people of Taiwan being able to take advantage of the information and

services offered by the World Health Organization, the WHO. Given that fact, and given the fact that international travel makes the transmission of communicable diseases much more prevalent, it is illogical to deny WHO services to Taiwan's population of 21 or 22 million.

Moreover, there is much that Taiwan could offer in terms of medical and pharmaceutical expertise. This Member very strongly, therefore, is supportive of Taiwan having a meaningful role in the WHO. The difficulty has been the fact that the WHO only allows membership for states, and Taiwan does not fit within the definition of a state.

Mr. Speaker, this is a technical issue, but it is nonetheless an important issue. It relates directly to the fact that Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, the mainland, both claim the same territory. By and large, the international community supports the PRC's claim. As a result, Taiwan is denied full membership in organizations where statehood is a prerequisite.

There are some in Taiwan, and perhaps some in this country, who would push for membership in international organizations as an indirect method of altering Taiwan's sovereign status. While such motives are understandable, it is not the purpose of H. Con. Res. 334, and this body does not, therefore, become enmeshed in such a debate. It would otherwise, I think, unfortunately have been enmeshed in such a debate in the previous resolution. This resolution deals with legitimate humanitarian issues, while consciously avoiding the political dispute.

Mr. Speaker, the point of the resolution before us today is the important contribution to global health that would result from meaningful Taiwanese participation. The Taiwan Relations Act, which everyone in this body seems to support, certainly I do, expresses the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means. There is an expectation, and indeed I would say a requirement, that Beijing and Taipei talk to one another about substantive issues.

Mr. Speaker, such discussions are indeed about to take place again. Next week, on October 14, the mainland and the Taiwanese negotiators will meet to resume high-level discussions that have been in a 3-year hiatus. In recent weeks, the head of the association for relations across the Taiwan Strait, the PRC's chief negotiator, has indicated that Beijing may be willing to make significant concessions. Incredibly, there even has been talk about concepts of shared sovereignty. This Member would hope this negotiation does, in fact, happen, goes forward positively, and there will be a clear substantive negotiation.

If these negotiations are ultimately successful, or at least moved towards a successful conclusion, then both sides achieve a better situation. And then it may well be that one day resolutions such as this one before this body may

not be necessary. But it is necessary at this point. I, of course, look forward to the day when we have a peaceful resolution of those difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would congratulate the author of this resolution again, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman of the Committee on Rules. The gentleman's support for Taiwan has been legendary and it has never wavered.

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This Member is genuinely pleased that we were able to reach an accommodation on a measure so close to the gentleman's heart through the resolution which he crafted and introduced.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 334, recently introduced, I urge its speedy adoption.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), a member of our committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 334, and I rise thus in support of making it the official policy of the United States government that we favor the participation of the Republic of China and Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee, for the leadership he has provided on this. And, of course, the gentleman always provides the leadership and strength on pro-freedom initiatives and initiatives that deal with fundamental fairness.

I also want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his cooperation and leadership on that side of the aisle.

And, finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), who has been a fierce fighter for freedom and justice in this world and in this body. The gentleman will be missed. And on issues just like this, he has always been there for the people struggling for freedom in various parts of the world.

Taiwan is, first and foremost, a free and democratic country. In the last few years we have seen an evolution in Taiwan that should serve as a shining example to the rest of Asia. In fact, as the rest of Asia sinks further towards tyranny and repression, Taiwan is reaching new heights, even in the face of threats against it, towards achieving its goal of a freer, more democratic, and more prosperous country.

In Taiwan, there are free elections, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly and freedom of enterprise. This resolution tells the world that freedom counts to the American people. We should not be on the side of a communist regime's attempt, wherever it is, to in some way intimidate a group of free people.

That is the situation we have now in Asia, where one tyrannical government is trying to frighten the people of Taiwan. And we are saying by this that where people have had these reforms, we should be siding with those people, who have at least, or would like to participate in the rest of the free world. And that is what is going on in the Republic of China.

This, on the other hand, sends a message that we respect an elected government; the elected government in the Republic of China and Taiwan. And as I say, not only has it a good record in terms of their political record and their economic record, but the Republic of China and Taiwan has an admirable record of public health, which is consistent with any government's commitment to democracy. The foundation of democracy is the respect that all individuals have a right to live in dignity and with a decent and healthy life. So it is consistent, then, that that is what we find in Taiwan.

I wish to also take this moment to express something that perhaps some people in this body do not know about. And that is, Taiwan, with its 21 million people, through private foundations and also through government action, have been deeply involved with helping other people who face health crises and humanitarian crises throughout the world. Through the TzuChi Foundation, tons and tons of medicines have been sent to crisis areas throughout Asia.

And, in fact, the Republic of Taiwan and the TzuChi Foundation, they even have a free clinic in Southern California for everyone. There is a free clinic that is run by the TzuChi Foundation. These people care about humanity, and we should salute them today by this resolution and say they should be part of the World Health Organization. So I salute the Republic of China and Taiwan and the TzuChi Foundation and those good and decent values those people represent.

This resolution is the best way that I can think of for this Congress to salute that type of commitment to the ideals that we share as Americans. I rise in support of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox).

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I wish to thank not only the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) but also the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for the very solid work they did in bringing this legislation to the floor.

The concerns about sovereignty by the People's Republic of China ought not to take precedence over public health, certainly not over the health of children in Taiwan. Taiwan's access to the resources of the World Health Organization is a matter of morality.

I am thrilled that we are making this common sense step forward, putting

good judgment and public policy ahead of politics. This is a very, very welcome resolution to support, it is sound foreign policy for the United States, and it reflects the best in bipartisanship in this Congress as we close our session. The solid work of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), in particular, working across the aisle, is very much to be commended, and I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 334, advocating the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization. I want to pay tribute, first of all, to my distinguished colleague, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, who has fought for this necessary legislation with the courage and passion that he brings to so many important policy matters in this body. He is truly a champion for human rights, and I am proud to serve with him. I also want to pay tribute to our colleague GERALD SOLOMON, who has been a leading supporter of Taiwan for many decades.

House Concurrent Resolution 334 addresses a matter that, in my strongly held opinion, should transcend the political divides that characterize the complex China-Taiwan issue. This bill is about the health of children and adults, and about not letting the political anachronism of Taiwan's exclusion from the international community limit the ability of its children to receive medical treatments, vaccines, and support services that would allow them to fight disease with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

As we debate this issue this afternoon, Taiwan is attempting to cope with a fatal outbreak of a new, virulent strain of enterovirus type 71. This disease is highly contagious, and it strikes children and infants with devastating consequences, causing severe inflammation of muscles surrounding the brain, spinal cord, and heart. In the month of June alone, more than 50 children died from this horrible affliction.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral responsibility to do everything in our power to ease the suffering of the Taiwanese people, and to achieve this end we must endorse Taiwan's participation in the WHO. The WHO has the capacity to provide medical research and supplies to assuage the impact of the enterovirus epidemic, and we must not allow diplomatic technicalities to impede this worthy goal.

It is most appropriate that we encourage involvement by Taiwan in the WHO. Taiwan is a country of some 22 million people, with an advanced medical and research infrastructure and a highly trained cadre of medical personnel—many of whom have been educated at the finest universities in the United States.

Taiwan has much to contribute as a member of the WHO—it should be a member, it should be working with other nations to improve world health. The exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO has everything to do with petty politics and misguided pride in Beijing, but it is a great loss to the world community to exclude Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I emphatically urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for the human rights of the children of Taiwan by voting for House Concurrent Resolution 334.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 334. This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that Taiwan and its 21 million people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO Constitution states that the "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition." Yet today, Taiwan is excluded from participation in the WHO because of political pressure from the People's Republic of China.

This means that the people of Taiwan cannot share in the WHO's vital resources and expertise. Taiwanese physicians and health experts are not allowed to take part in WHO-organized forums and workshops regarding the latest techniques in the diagnosis, monitoring and control of diseases. Taiwanese doctors do not have access to WHO medical protocols and health standards.

This is simply not right. Diseases do not stop at national boundaries, and with today's high frequency of international travel, the possibility of transmitting infectious diseases is greater than ever. Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world, and Taiwan should be granted membership in the WHO.

Despite its exclusion from the WHO, Taiwan has made some remarkable achievements in the field of health, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, and the eradication of infectious diseases such as smallpox and the plague. Taiwan is the first Asian nation to be rid of polio and the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations.

Prior to 1972 and its loss of membership in the WHO, Taiwan sent specialists to serve on health projects in other members countries, and its experts held key positions in the WHO. In recent years, the Taiwanese government has expressed a willingness to assist financially or technically in WHO-supported international aid and health activities, but it has been unable to render such assistance because it is unable to participate in the international health organization.

Taiwan's population of 21 million people is larger than three-quarters of the member states already in the WHO. Clearly, Taiwan and the world community could benefit by its participation in the WHO. I believe the United States should actively support Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, July 8, 1998]

DON'T TAIWANESE CHILDREN COUNT?

(By Sherrod Brown)

While President Clinton was visiting China, scores of Taiwanese children just across the straits were continuing to fight for their lives against a new, deadly virus. Unfortunately, the doctors treating this illness do not have access to the medical resources of the World Health Organization (WHO) because the regime in China will not permit Taiwan to gain membership. The fact that Taiwan is severely crippled in its effort to save children is a tragedy, with deadly implications for children the world over if this virus is not halted.

Taiwan is in the grip of a fatal epidemic that's showing no sign of slowing down. Over the past month, more than 50 children have reportedly died due to the outbreak of a virulent strain of enterovirus type 71, which causes severe inflammation of muscles surrounding the brain, spinal cord and heart. Infants and children are most vulnerable to this highly contagious virus.

Physicians treating the children unfortunately do not have access to the best medical information available because Taiwan is not allowed membership in the WHO, and cannot share in the organization's vital resources and expertise. This issue should not be about geopolitics; it should be about helping humanity.

Over the past half-century, the WHO has become the foremost international organization working to control and eradicate disease and to improve health for people the world over. Through the WHO's highly effective immunization programs, millions of children live better, longer and healthier lives. The WHO has already helped protect some eight out of 10 children worldwide from major childhood diseases, including measles and tuberculosis, and has worked to reduce the global infant mortality rate by 37 percent since 1970. The WHO was also instrumental in eradicating the smallpox epidemic, which spread to 31 countries in the late 1960s and claimed nearly two million lives.

Children suffer from the effects of inadequate health care, whether they live in Los Angeles, Milan, Hong Kong, or Taipei. With the high frequency of international travel, the risk of transmitting infectious diseases such as AIDS, the Hong Kong bird flu and the enterovirus is greater than ever. In addition, increased international trade leads to a greater potential for the cross-border spread of such deadly viruses.

I believe the denial of WHO membership to Taiwan is an unjustifiable violation of its people's fundamental human rights. Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world, and Taiwan's admission to the WHO would greatly help foster that right for its people.

China, of course, is not the only obstacle to Taiwan's admission to the WHO. The Clinton administration, as with the two previous administrations, does not support Taiwan's participation in international organizations. However, the U.S. State Department's 1994 Taiwan Policy Review clearly stated it would more actively support Taiwan's membership in international organizations when the U.S. government determines that "it is clearly appropriate."

I and more than 50 of my colleagues in the House believe U.S. support for Taiwan's admission to the WHO is and has long been "clearly appropriate." Last February, I introduced a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan and its people should be represented in the WHO and that it should be U.S. policy to support Taiwan's membership.

As the WHO celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, the organization can proudly claim 191 nations as members. But for the past 25 years, Taiwan has been shut out of the WHO because of China's continued intransigence toward its small island neighbor. Every day, children and the elderly in Taiwan suffer needlessly because their doctors aren't able to have access to WHO medical protocols that save lives. The longer we wait, the more desperate the situation in Taiwan grows. We must act immediately to right a very serious wrong.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 334, Relating to Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Organization.

I congratulate Mr. SHERROD BROWN for the intense efforts he has made to bring this resolution before the House. House Concurrent Resolution 334 is a substitute resolution to House Joint Resolution 126, which Mr. BROWN had introduced earlier and which I was a co-sponsor.

This resolution calls attention to what I think we would all consider a basic human right, that is the right of every citizen to good health and access to the highest standards of health information and services. Denying a country of 21 million people to such international institutions as the World Health Organization should embarrass the member states of the United Nations who insist on keeping those doors shut to the Taiwanese people.

But I think this resolution points up an even more egregious mistake by the international community. The fundamental issue is not whether or not Taiwan should be a member of the World Health Organization. The issue is whether or not the international community should exclude a country like Taiwan from membership in any international organizations. We have a situation today in which pariah nations such as North Korea, Iraq, and Burma are members of the United Nations and actively participate—mostly in a negative fashion in terms of American interests—in all the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Whereas Taiwan which is democratic, with a free market economy, and with the third largest foreign exchange reserves in the world is unable to participate in almost every international organization.

There is something out of balance here that needs to be rectified. The Clinton administration in 1994 Taiwan Policy Review vowed to seek Taiwanese membership in "appropriate" international organizations. So far, no "appropriate" organizations have been found. I would urge the administration to intensify its search.

I think there are such organizations readily at hand in this city: the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

We are in the midst of a world economic crisis. Some respected economists even paint the dismal picture of an imminent world depression. The devastating effects of economic collapse are already apparent in the developing country and they are spreading to other states. The world's economy is sick. With foreign exchange reserves totaling \$88 billion, Taiwan has some of the medicine which can help the rest of the world recover. We should be seeking for ways to help Taiwan contribute to the well-being of the international community, not finding ways to exclude Taiwan.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the original resolution and, as ranking member of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee, I urge my colleagues to support the one before us today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 334 calling for Taiwan's participation in World Health Organization (WHO) activities because it is good policy. It is my hope that the United States will support this bid.

It does not matter where people live. They may live in the Chinatown area of my district, the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, or on the West Coast in Seattle, Washington, or overseas in Taipei, Taiwan. Regardless, the humane thing to do is to care for ill children, the elderly, all people. Are we playing politics

with the 21 million people that reside in Taiwan? I am a firm believer in that the people shall not suffer as a result of government policies. If women and children are ailing, we need to assist in whatever way possible that is within our means.

The bottom line is that the people of Taiwan can access better healthcare if the country is allowed representation in the World Health Organization.

Moreover, in recent years the people of Taiwan have successfully defended their participation in a number of multilateral groups, including, but not limited to the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Basin Economic Council. Although the composition for their participation varies from group to group, their pragmatic importance is inevitable.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of the country of Taiwan in the global arena and support their entry into the WHO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 334.

The question was taken.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1260, SECURITIES LITIGATION UNIFORM STANDARDS ACT OF 1998

Mr. BLILEY submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate bill (S. 1260) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes;

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 105-803)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1260), to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) *the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 sought to prevent abuses in private securities fraud lawsuits;*

(2) *since enactment of that legislation, considerable evidence has been presented to Congress*