

## **Issues of Concern to Taiwanese Americans**

### **Challenge the PRC's One China Principle**

An increasing number of countries and international organizations are abiding by the PRC's One China Principle instead of the U.S. One China Policy. This partly results from the U.S. One China Policy's passive language vis-à-vis Taiwan's sovereignty status and the legitimacy of the island's democracy. The U.S. could adopt the following policy statements to further distinguish its position from the PRC's to push back against the One China Principle campaign:

1. The United States recognizes the objective reality that the Taiwan authorities legitimately represent a democracy of 23.5 million people.
2. The United States will ensure any resolution of the future of Taiwan must be done peacefully and with the active assent of the people of Taiwan.
3. The United States encourages both sides to carry out constructive dialogue without precondition.

### **Senate Confirmation of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Director**

The AIT Director, the U.S. *de facto* Ambassador to Taiwan, is appointed by the Secretary of State without checks and balances by Congress. Taiwanese Americans would like to see the AIT Director confirmed by the Senate, which has the right to oversee US-Taiwan relations through such a confirmation process.

### **Rename Taiwan's de facto Embassy from TECRO to Taiwan Representative Office (TRO)**

Taiwanese Americans believe that the current title of Taiwan's *de facto* embassy in Washington DC, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), does not reflect the sovereignty of Taiwan. The U.S. could learn from the experience of Japan, which successfully resisted PRC pressure in 2017 and named its *de facto* embassy in Taiwan from "Interchange Association" into "Japan-Taiwan Interchange Association." Ultimately, referring to Taiwan simply "Taiwan" is consistent with U.S. policy. We therefore seek Congress' support to rename TECRO to TRO.

### **Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Organization (WHO)**

Taiwan has been barred from joining the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) in the past two years due to the PRC's pressure and political preconditions. This puts not only Taiwan but global health at risk -- disease outbreaks do not stop at national borders. The SARS crisis in the early 2000's took away 181 lives in Taiwan, which lacked timely information from the WHO. With bipartisan co-sponsors, Rep. Yoho introduced H.R.353 to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan at the WHO.

To co-sponsor, please contact Bryan Burack at [Bryan.Burack@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bryan.Burack@mail.house.gov)

### **US-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement / Bilateral Trade Agreement**

Taiwan was the 11th largest U.S. trading partner in 2017. Further, Taiwan was the export destination for over \$9.9 billion in U.S. services exports in 2017, yielding a surplus for the U.S. of over \$1.8 billion. Taiwan is the 15th largest export market for the United States, and for agriculture in particular, its 8th largest export destination. As a result, Taiwan is an important and growing source of job creation for the United States. U.S. Government data show that U.S. goods and services exports to Taiwan, combined with investment by Taiwan-affiliated companies throughout the United States, support 322,728 well-paid U.S. jobs.

### **National Defense Authorization Act of 2020**

- Replace "asymmetrical defense" framework for arms sales to Taiwan with "modern and deterrent" capabilities.
- Address Taiwan's shortfall in fighter aircraft through the sale of F-16V or other aircraft of similar capability.
- Extend an invitation to Taiwan to the RIMPAC as a full partner / partner in HADR exercise / observer.
- Elevate the ranking of U.S. defense attaché in Taiwan from Colonel to Brigadier.