

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Alex Azar  
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

I would like to bring to your attention the upcoming Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) meeting that Taiwan will be hosting from April 30 to May 3, 2019 in Taipei. I urge you to attend this important event.

The GCTF is a joint effort between the United States and Taiwan to bring together officials and experts from across the Indo-Pacific to share best practices in areas like public health to humanitarian assistance. Through the GCTF, the United States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika.

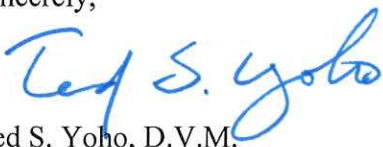
We must not undervalue Taiwan's financial and technical contributions to global health initiatives. Since 1996, Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries. In 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1 million and providing 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment.

Nevertheless, Taiwan has been continually excluded from participation in international bodies that address global health initiatives, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO), at the behest of China. In 2017 and 2018, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the annual World Health Assembly meeting despite receiving invitations under an observer status from 2009-2016.

In response to this unnecessary exclusion, I introduced H.R. 353 – to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization. This legislation passed the House unanimously on January 22, 2019. While this bill has received support in Congress, I ask for your help in advocating for Taiwan's inclusion in the 2019 World Health Assembly meeting. Diseases know no borders, and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health cooperation increases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

Once again, I urge you to attend the upcoming GCTF meeting to support U.S.-Taiwan global health initiatives. Through this joint effort we can bring achievable and effective health practices to the Indo-Pacific.

Sincerely,



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and  
Nonproliferation