

He was known for his integrity, twice serving as chairman of the Committee on Standards and Official Conduct. He was known for his common sense and for his frugality. The building in Ogden, which will be named for him, is a place where he served for 22 years. I have followed him, so my office is in the same spot that his office was, and I and my staff are going to be proud that we are now serving in the Jim Hansen Federal Building in Ogden, Utah.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we had many people who wanted to come speak today, but I think the calendar has precluded them from coming. So I would like to urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill that honors our colleague, who I want to assure everyone is in vital health and still alive, despite all of the honors he has received recently.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Hansen was a man of great good humor, great political insight, great integrity, and a man of principle. I am honored to sponsor this bill on his behalf.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise to today in support of H.R. 3147, To Designate a Federal Building in Ogden, Utah as the "James V Hansen Federal Building".

Chairman Hansen and I served together in this House for 14 years. As Chairman of the House Resources Committee, Jim Hansen was instrumental in securing passage of several pieces of legislation crucial to the needs of my constituents in American Samoa.

Jim was a champion of good causes, an exemplary leader, and more importantly, my friend. At this time I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation which recognizes and honors Chairman Hansen's legacy of service.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3147, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4019) to address the participation

of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health.

(2) Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially today with the great potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria.

(3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is greater than that of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states already in the World Health Organization (WHO).

(4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including—

(A) attaining—

(i) 1 of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia; and

(ii) maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries;

(B) eradicating such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, the plague, and polio; and

(C) providing children with hepatitis B vaccinations.

(5) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its counterpart agencies in Taiwan have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues.

(6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO.

(7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese Government sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the Salvadoran Government.

(8) The World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950's.

(9) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations.

(10) Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO.

(11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan's participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the WHO.

(12) On May 11, 2001, President Bush stated in a letter to Senator Murkowski that the United States "should find opportunities for Taiwan's voice to be heard in international organizations in order to make a contribution, even if membership is not possible", further stating that the administration "has focused on finding concrete ways for Taiwan to benefit and contribute to the WHO".

(13) In his speech made in the World Medical Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of

Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced "America's work for a healthy world cuts across political lines. That is why my government supports Taiwan's efforts to gain observership status at the World Health Assembly. We know this is a controversial issue, but we do not shrink from taking a public stance on it. The people of Taiwan deserve the same level of public health as citizens of every nation on earth, and we support them in their efforts to achieve it".

(14) The Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the United Nations and the United States for resources to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in December 2002.

(15) In 2003, the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) caused 84 deaths in Taiwan.

(16) Avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, has reemerged in Asia, with strains of the influenza reported by the People's Republic of China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.

(17) The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks illustrate that disease knows no boundaries and emphasize the importance of allowing all people access to the WHO.

(18) As the pace of globalization quickens and the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is crucial that all people, including the people of Taiwan, be given the opportunity to participate in international health organizations such as the WHO.

(19) The Secretary of Health and Human Services acknowledged during the 2003 World Health Assembly meeting that "[t]he need for effective public health exists among all peoples".

(b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State is authorized to—

(1) initiate a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly each year in Geneva, Switzerland;

(2) instruct the United States delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva to implement that plan; and

(3) introduce a resolution in support of observer status for Taiwan at the summit of the World Health Assembly.

(c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN AT THE SUMMIT OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than April 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Congress, in unclassified form, describing the United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly (WHA) held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in May of each year in Geneva, Switzerland. Each report shall include the following:

(1) An account of the efforts the Secretary of State has made, following the last meeting of the World Health Assembly, to encourage WHO member states to promote Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status.

(2) The steps the Secretary of State will take to endorse and obtain observer status at the next annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4019, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for his leadership in this effort to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit held by the World Health Organization in May of each year. My colleague has spearheaded this campaign for many years, and I am pleased to join him once again.

I also want to thank Brett Gibson of the staff of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), who has done a great job working on this issue.

The people of Taiwan have a great deal to offer to the international community. It is terribly unfortunate that while Taiwan's achievements in the medical field are certainly substantial, and it has expressed the repeated willingness to assist both financially and technically in World Health Organization activities, it has not been allowed to do so because of the intransigence of the Communist Chinese Government.

It is a travesty that during times of crisis, such as the 1998 entovirus outbreak in Taiwan that killed 70 children and infected hundreds and hundreds more, the World Health Organization was unable to help. When an earthquake in 1999 claimed more than 2,000 lives, we learned in published reports that the Chinese Government, whose belligerent insistence that Taiwan be denied a role in international organizations, demanded that any aid for Taiwan provided by U.N. organizations and the Red Cross receive prior approval from the dictators in Beijing. And when the SARS outbreak killed so many in Taiwan last year, the PRC objected to WHO assistance for its neighbor.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson has stated that the people of Taiwan deserve the same level of public health as citizens of every nation on earth, and we support them in their efforts to achieve it. We can show that support by adopting this legislation that would authorize the Secretary of State to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health assembly and introduce a resolution in support of observer status.

This legislation also makes permanent the reporting requirement mandating an account of our government's efforts at the assembly and the steps the Secretary will take to endorse and obtain observer status at the next meeting of the assembly.

In the face of the AIDS pandemic, the threat of bioterrorism, and vicious in-

fectious diseases like avian flu, the need for international cooperation in public health matters has never been more critical.

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But despite the danger of health threats stalking the world's population, 23 million residents of the island of Taiwan continue to be banned from participation in and cooperating with the work of the World Health Organization. Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Organization is not simply a political question, it is a question of humanity. It is an injury to the lives and well-being of the Taiwanese people, and a lost opportunity to defeat disease, humanity's common enemy.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that demands we put aside narrow political considerations in the interest of human welfare. It demands the attention of the international community, and it demands the attention of the United States. Beyond these humanitarian considerations that would apply to people anywhere in the world if granted observer status at the World Health Organization, Taiwan would be uniquely positioned to help strengthen the infrastructure of the international public health system.

The damage from the potential exclusion from World Health Organization does not stop at the island's shoreline. Taiwan's continued forced isolation from the world health community stands to impact the health of all of the countries in East Asia and the greater international community. Diseases do not recognize political boundaries, a fact demonstrated during the 2003 outbreak of SARS, as I mentioned previously. Taiwan's highly trained medical personnel, outstanding medical facilities and respected scientific community would be a tremendous resource to global health professionals working to combat disease. Furthermore, despite its arbitrary exclusion from the World Health Organization and the annual World Health Assembly in Geneva, Taiwan has made generous financial contributions to international efforts to improve public health throughout the world, including a \$1 million donation to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In the context of such compelling arguments for Taiwan's participation in the global network of medical information and organizations represented by the World Health Organization, its continuing exclusion is illogical and dangerous. It is a reality that has been perpetuated through the threats and posturing of the People's Republic of China, a government whose outrageous behavior during last year's SARS epidemic clearly demonstrated an unwillingness to act responsibly in safeguarding the health of citizens on the mainland or Taiwan.

It is my hope and that of other co-sponsors of this legislation that our government will take vigorous steps to

immediately right this wrong. This legislation calls on the head of the American delegation at the World Health Organization to speak out forcefully on the floor of the World Health Assembly in support of the right of the people of Taiwan to meaningful participation in the international public health community.

The manager's amendment contains a modification on the bill as introduced. It extends beyond calendar year 2004 the authorization for the Secretary of State to seek observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly and to report to Congress on the same.

I would conclude by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and his staff for leadership on this bill, and also the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who are co-chairs of the Taiwan Caucus.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again join the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) in urging Congress to authorize the U.S. to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly, the meeting of the World Health Organization, set for next month, May of 2004, in Geneva.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) and especially the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for their hard work and dedication to world public health. H.R. 4019 is another important step in fulfilling the commitment that we in this country made in the 1994 Taiwan policy review to more actively support Taiwan's membership in organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization. We should continue to support Taiwan in international bodies. We should continue to advocate for Taiwan to be represented in the WHO.

There are more reasons today to support this bill than there were last year even. Those reasons are SARS and the avian flu outbreaks. How much more limited would the effect of SARS worldwide have been if Taiwan's government had been fully engaged in the work of the World Health Organization? How much more quickly would the disaster have been contained if China had not covered up the outbreak and Taiwan could have stepped forward?

Excluding the people of Taiwan from the WHO violates the basic premise of the WHO to enjoy the attainment of the highest standard of health "is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

Last year the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, caused 73 people in Taiwan to die. This

year, avian influenza has reemerged in Asia, has been reported in China and Cambodia, Indonesia and Japan, Laos, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. SARS and the avian influenza continue to threaten Taiwan. The case has never been stronger for allowing the people of Taiwan access to the WHO. As globalization quickens, and as the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is crucial that the people of Taiwan be given the opportunity to participate in international health organizations such as WHO.

This bill authorizes Secretary of State Powell to endorse and help obtain observer status for Taiwan at the week-long health summit of the WHA, and authorizes the State Department to introduce a resolution on the floor of the WHA in support of Taiwan's participation in the organization. The bill directs the State Department to submit a plan to Congress on how to accomplish this objective.

Taiwan has eradicated smallpox, cholera, polio, and achieved infant mortality rates on a par with Western, wealthy nations. These accomplishments warrant an invitation to participate in international policy health discussions, to sit at the table with scientists and physicians and other public health experts in all these countries.

With a population of 23 million people, Taiwan is larger than 75 percent of the countries which actually belong to the WHO. Taiwan is prepared to contribute meaningfully to the global health efforts discussed at the WHA, but without observer status, its delegates cannot even enter the room. This bill would prevent the international community from missing out on the insight and experience Taiwanese health officials can offer. This bill is good for the 23 million people in Taiwan, and it is also good for the rest of the world because of the expertise that Taiwanese health officials bring to the table.

I urge my colleagues to support access to the WHO for the 23 million people of democratic Taiwan and support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to recognize several of the staff who have been instrumental on bringing this forth today. On the majority side, I would like to recognize Sarah Tilleman and Dennis Halpin for their very hard work; and on the minority side, I would like to recognize and thank Paul Oostburg and Bob King for their service and the hard work they have put in to make this possible today.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend my colleague from Ohio, SHERRON BROWN, for his persistence in pushing for Taiwan's observer status at the WHO. For many years he has successfully advocated for legislation to move this issue forward, and I want to congratulate him on his current efforts to do so.

I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Committee, my good friend from Illinois, for moving this legislation forward and to other members on his side of the aisle for their support.

Mr. Speaker, by battling the spread of infectious diseases and increasing the quality of health care to the global community, the World Health Organization makes a significant contribution to America's national security. As we meet today, the World Health Organization is attempting to prevent future outbreaks of the deadly SARS virus, implementing new strategies to stop the spread of the deadly HIV/AIDS virus, and teaching the developing world how to stop the transmission of tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, the fight for quality health care around the globe will never cease. As a result, the WHO and its member countries must look for help from every nation, and from every people, to strengthen the work of the organization. Unfortunately, strong and consistent opposition from the Chinese Government has repeatedly stopped the people of Taiwan from contributing to the work of the WHO.

I appreciate the willingness of President Bush to support Taiwan's bid for WHO observer status. But I fear that those who work for the President at the White House and the State Department are unwilling to make a concerted effort to make Taiwan's observer status a reality. While it is true that active, not simply passive, support for Taiwan's bid will upset Beijing, we must first focus on promoting America's own national interest.

It is true that observer status for Taiwan will not come easy. Beijing holds sway over many WHO members. But the facts in support of Taiwan's case are clear, and support will undoubtedly build over time with active American engagement.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of America's strongest allies in the Asia-Pacific region, and is a beacon of democracy for people around the world. Taiwan also has the money and expertise to make a significant contribution to the work of the World Health Organization. The case for Taiwan at the WHO is clear, and I hope that the Bush Administration will actively seize on this critically-important matter.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4019.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of Taiwan's entry into the World Health Organization (WHO). It is once again time for Congress to stand up for a democratic Taiwan.

Secretary Powell has noted before the International Relations Committee that there should be ways for Taiwan to enjoy full benefits of participation in international organizations without being a member. H.R. 4019 only calls for the Secretary of State to initiate a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status at the WHO for Taiwan.

Time and time again in recent years, Congress has passed similar legislation to provide for Taiwan's participation in the WHO. Yet time and time again, Taiwan has been thwarted from joining this international organization because of objections from the People's Republic of China. This most recently occurred last May at the World Health Assembly in Geneva; even after Congress enacted legislation authorizing the U.S. Government to implement a plan for Taiwan to obtain observer status.

In recent years, Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities sup-

ported by the WHO, but has been unable to render such assistance because Taiwan is not a member of the WHO. Last year's SARS outbreak in Asia should have made it perfectly clear how important it is to allow Taiwan to participate in the WHO. Taiwan offered to work with the WHO yet was denied; only later were two WHO experts dispatched to Taiwan.

Meanwhile, the WHO has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Knights of Malta, and the Vatican.

Along with many of my colleagues, I am extremely disappointed that Taiwan is not a full member of the U.N. and all international organizations that its democratically led government wishes to join. Although this resolution does not go anywhere near far enough to address this concern, it is a first step in addressing the problem that Taiwan faces.

Therefore, I urge every member of this House to support a democratic Taiwan by supporting this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4019, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GUARDSMEN AND RESERVISTS FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1779) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans during the period that a military reservist or national guardsman is called to active duty for an extended period, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Guardsmen and Reservists Financial Relief Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. PENALTY-FREE WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUALS CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR AT LEAST 179 DAYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 72(t) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) DISTRIBUTIONS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS TO INDIVIDUALS CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY.—