

By: Vo

H.R. No. 1483

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States enjoy a friendly and
2 mutually beneficial relationship, and solid commercial,
3 educational, and cultural ties can be further strengthened by the
4 inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; and

5 WHEREAS, A full-fledged, stable democracy, Taiwan shares
6 with the United States a commitment to democracy, human rights, the
7 rule of law, and a market-based economy; moreover, Taiwan is our
8 ninth-largest trading partner and a key export market in almost
9 every major sector; trade in commercial goods between Taiwan and
10 the United States totaled nearly \$62 billion in 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, The two nations have long maintained close and
12 productive cooperation in science and technology, and since 1979,
13 they have signed more than 190 science and technology agreements
14 under the framework of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
15 Representative Office and the American Institute in Taiwan; Taiwan
16 has worked very closely with the United States in the field of
17 education, and in 2010, more than 26,000 Taiwanese studied in our
18 colleges and universities; and

19 WHEREAS, These important relationships generate significant
20 interpersonal contact and travel, and in 2009, people from Taiwan
21 paid more than 500,000 visits to the United States; if admitted to
22 the Visa Waiver Program, holders of Taiwan passports could travel
23 to the United States without the expense and time-consuming process
24 of obtaining a visa, which is expected to boost the number of visits

1 for both sightseeing and business purposes; Taiwanese travel to the
2 United Kingdom and New Zealand spiked by 35 to 40 percent after
3 those countries waived visa obligations, and it is estimated that
4 waiving visa requirements for Taiwanese travels in the United
5 States could increase tourism revenue by as much as \$1.8 billion;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In order to gain entry into the Visa Waiver Program,
8 a country must have a visa refusal rate below 3 percent, and only
9 2.2 percent of Taiwanese visa applications were rejected by the
10 United States in fiscal year 2010; about 100 countries, including
11 Japan and members of the European Union, offer Taiwan visa
12 exemptions on the basis of reciprocity and out of confidence that
13 citizens of Taiwan are law-abiding and unlikely to overstay; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan has already exempted U.S. passport holders
15 from visa requirements for visits up to 30 days; by extending
16 similar privileges, the United States can facilitate
17 people-to-people contacts, enhance cultural links, and expand
18 business opportunities and tourism; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby endorse the inclusion of Taiwan in the United
21 States Visa Waiver Program; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward official copies of
23 this resolution to the president of the United States, to the
24 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
25 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
26 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
27 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a

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1 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.