

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2024

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20 1211
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Director-General Tedros:

As members of the United States House of Representatives GOP Doctors Caucus, we write to express our profound concern about the continued exclusion of Taiwan from participation in the World Health Organization (WHO). In our letters to you in 2020 and 2022, we urged you not to yield to pressure from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and to reinstate an invitation to Taiwan to participate in the annual World Health Assembly (WHA). We are disappointed to see that under pressure from the Chinese Communist Party, the WHO has denied Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the organization, where Taiwan once held observer status from 2009 to 2016; and we urge you to grant Taiwan "observership" status so that it may participate in this year's WHA that begins on May 27th, 2024.

Taiwan is an exemplary leader and a model contributor to world health, having provided financial and technical assistance in response to numerous global health challenges. As physician members of Congress, we understand the extent of potential benefits from Taiwan participation in the WHO. Conversely, the stakes of excluding such a capable partner are grave, – exemplified by the WHO's ignorance of Taiwan's early warning about the potential for human-to-human transmission of a mysterious pneumonia in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 – , which later evolved into the coronavirus pandemic that swept the globe.

As the Director-General of the WHO, your foremost duty is to promote health for all and safeguard global health security as well as the organization's integrity. Yielding to the CCP's demands and marginalizing Taiwan's participation undermines the global public good and creates a loophole for political interference in the urgently demanded global public health cooperation and security – a direct contradiction to your duties.

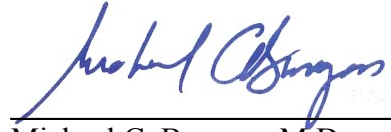
Inviting Taiwan to observe the WHA is a critical step toward affirming the WHO's goal to achieve good health for all. Taiwan held observer status from 2009 to 2016, under the invitation of your predecessor. However, since 2017, during your tenure, Taiwan has not received an invitation to observe the WHA even once. We strongly urge you to promptly extend an invitation to Taiwan to observe the upcoming 77th WHA.

We urge you to take proactive actions to enable Taiwan to engage meaningfully and regularly in WHO meetings and activities.

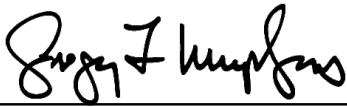
Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



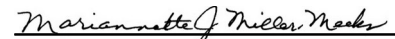
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress