

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO TAIWANESE AMERICANS

1. UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION

Taiwan today is a democracy. Any important issue, such as the future of Taiwan, should be determined by the people of Taiwan through a democratic mechanism, such as a referendum. U.S. current policy is that any resolution of cross-Taiwan Strait relations must be (1) peaceful and (2) have the express consent of the people of Taiwan. On April 13, 2011, Reps. Robert Andrews and Scott Garrett introduced HCR39, stating that “the future of Taiwan should be determined peacefully by the people of Taiwan and free from coercion by the Government of the People's Republic of China.” To cosponsor, please contact Adrienne Izzo at 225-6501 or Adrienne.Izzo@mail.house.gov

3. SAFETY AND SECURITY

China's over 1,400 missiles not only threaten Taiwan but also seriously undermine stability in the region. These missiles hold the 23 million people of Taiwan at gunpoint and pose a psychological terror. The Cuban missile crisis in the 1960s held the American people hostage for 13 days. Yet, every day the people of Taiwan live under this Chinese military threat. The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) commits the U.S. to supporting Taiwan's security. We support the sale of advanced weapons and advocate the need for the highest level of military exchange between Taiwan and the U.S. On September 14, 2011, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced HR2918, the Taiwan Policy Act, containing numerous provisions for strengthening Taiwan's safety and security. To cosponsor, please contact Dennis Halpin at 225-5021 or Dennis.Halpin@mail.house.gov

4. MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: UN and WHO

China's diplomatic obstruction prevents Taiwan from gaining membership in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), as well as all UN-affiliated organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO). Chinese pressure blocked direct WHO assistance from reaching Taiwan during the height of SARS and bird flu outbreaks. A secret 2005 memorandum of understanding between China and the WHO limits Taiwan's participation and requires other members to refer to Taiwan as “Province of China.” But health should not be used as a political weapon. Since 1997, both Houses have passed legislation supporting Taiwan's membership in the WHO, but current U.S. policy supporting Taiwan's "meaningful" participation in the WHO is rendered meaningless because of this secret memorandum. On September 13, 2011, Rep. Scott Garrett introduced HCR77 in support of UN membership for Taiwan. To cosponsor, please contact John Maniscalco at 225-4465 or John.Maniscalco@mail.house.gov

5. US-TAIWAN FREE AND FAIR TRADE AGREEMENT

Today, Taiwan is the U.S. 9th largest trading partner and the 6th largest destination for U.S. agricultural products. U.S.-Taiwan trade totals \$67 billion annually. The International Trade Commission concluded that an FTA with Taiwan eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers on U.S. trade with Taiwan could increase U.S. exports and yield benefits to service exports. For these same reasons it would also be in U.S. interests to bring Taiwan into the ongoing discussions on the preparation for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). On September 14, 2011, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced HR2918, the Taiwan Policy Act, which includes provisions in support of both a bilateral FTA and Taiwan's participation in the TPP. To cosponsor, please contact Dennis Halpin at 225-5021 or Dennis.Halpin@mail.house.gov

2. US-TAIWAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The U.S. currently maintains full diplomatic relations with all the countries in the world except five: North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Bhutan, and Taiwan. But Taiwan, a vibrant and open society and one of the most important trading economies in the world, does not belong in that small group of insular and isolated nations shunned by the U.S. To highlight this injustice, on May 7, 2012 Reps. Michael McCaul, Robert Andrews, and Sam Johnson introduced HCR122, concluding that the U.S. resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Additionally, the resolution calls for U.S. support for Taiwan's full participation in the United Nations and all other international organization, as well as replacing the U.S.' "one China" policy with a more realistic “one China, one Taiwan” policy. To cosponsor HCR122, please contact Andy Taylor at 225-2401 or at Andy.Taylor@mail.house.gov

6. CONGRESSIONAL TAIWAN CAUCUS

The Congressional Taiwan Caucus (CTC) was established in April 2002. With 156 bipartisan members, it is now the second largest country caucus in the House of Representatives. The Senate Taiwan Caucus (STC) has 26 members and also continues to grow. To join the CTC: Jeremy Kadden at 225-5965; to join the STC: Victoria Woodbury at 224-4744.

For more info, contact: **Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA)** at (202) 547-3686 or www.fapa.org