Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2020

His Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization
c/o Regional Office for the Americas
World Health Organization
525 23rd Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Director-General Tedros:

During this unprecedented global public health crisis, we write to express our strong support for Taiwan’s unconditional inclusion as an Observer in the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) and in World Health Organization (WHO) technical meetings.

Taiwan’s commitment to global public health and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrate the value of including Taiwan in WHO activities. By all accounts, Taiwan has mounted one of the best responses of any country to the pandemic. Since April 1, it has also donated 23 million masks to other countries, continuing its long, substantial history of aid in the face of health crises. Furthermore, Taiwan has an outstanding record of multilateral engagement on a wide range of health challenges and runs over 50 public health programs in 20 countries.

Despite Taiwan’s outstanding response and demonstrated expertise, WHO’s treatment of Taiwan during the COVID-19 crisis is concerning. Specifically, Taiwan has stated that its officials are not receiving necessary information from WHO in a timely manner; it is excluded from WHO’s laboratory network; WHO is not sharing information from Taiwan with Member States; and Taiwan’s statistics have been misleadingly included with those of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). These slights fit a pattern. Between 2009 and 2019, WHO rejected 130 out of Taiwan’s 187 applications to take part in technical meetings. Further, since President Tsai Ing-Wen was elected as President of Taiwan in 2016, the PRC has succeeded in pressuring WHO to withhold an invitation to Taiwan to participate as an Observer at the last three WHA annual meetings.

Given Taiwan’s contributions and the health needs of its people, WHO cannot uphold the spirit of its Constitution to seek the health of all people while excluding Taiwan from participation as an Observer at this year’s WHA. This is especially true since neither United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 nor WHA Resolution WHA25.1 grant Beijing the right to represent the people of Taiwan.
We believe that inviting Taiwan to this year’s WHA is not only the right thing to do but would strengthen the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress
Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Watkins  
Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Watkins  
Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Watkins  
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Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa  
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Juan Vargas  
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Michael Guest  
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/s/ Steve Watkins  
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Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress
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Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

/s/ Chuck Fleischmann
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

/s/ Troy Balderson
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Chuck Fleischmann
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/ Troy Balderson
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Scott Peters
Scott Peters
Member of Congress
Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rob Bishop  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

Jennifer González-Colón  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Donald Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress
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Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

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Tom Graves
Member of Congress

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Will Hurd
Member of Congress

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Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

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Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

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Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

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Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

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/s/ Suzan DelBene
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

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Al Green
Member of Congress

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/s/ Daniel T. Kildee
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

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Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

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Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

_________________________
/s/ Jimmy Gomez
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

_________________________
/s/ Max Rose
Max Rose
Member of Congress
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Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom Rice  
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rodney Davis  
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/ Don Young  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

/s/ Doug Lamborn  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steven M. Palazzo  
Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Walberg  
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn  
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta  
Jimmy Panetta  
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/s/ Lizzie Fletcher  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Quigley  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

/g/ Trent Kelly  
Trent Kelly  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress
/s/ George Holding
George Holding
Member of Congress

/s/ David Schweikert
David Schweikert
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/s/ Scott R. Tipton
Scott R. Tipton
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/s/ Tom Cole
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

/s/ K. Michael Conaway
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

/s/ John Shimkus
John Shimkus
Member of Congress

/s/ William Timmons
William Timmons
Member of Congress

/s/ Judy Chu
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/ Bennie Thompson
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case
Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress
Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

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

/s/ Don Bacon  
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Harris, M.D.  
Andy Harris, M.D.  
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Donna E. Shalala  
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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/ Deb Haaland  
Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry Cuellar  
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

/s/ Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Womack  
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

Paul Cook  
Member of Congress
/s/ Mike Johnson
Mike Johnson
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
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John Katko
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David B. McKinley P.E.
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Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Hal Rogers
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Pete Stauber
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Chip Roy
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

/s/ Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

/s/ Jeff Duncan
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

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

/s/ Michael Cloud
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress