

By the Committee on Rules; and Senators Bracy, Campbell, and Gibson

595-03284-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the relationship between and shared interests of the people of Taiwan and the United States and supporting these interests, as well as future opportunities for international trade between the two nations.

WHEREAS, the people of Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, elected their first female president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, on January 16, 2016, by popular vote, and in June 2016 Florida welcomed her as she visited the state, further enhancing the bilateral relationship between the United States and Taiwan and strengthening the common value of democracy it shares with the United States, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of the allies of the United States in East Asia, and the United States continues to provide defensive weaponry, including sales of naval vessels, equipment, and munitions to Taiwan, as well as delivery of 60 Sikorsky UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, and

WHEREAS, most of the post-sale training on these Black Hawk helicopters was conducted in Florida, which created jobs in this state and helped Taiwan maintain its defense capabilities, and

WHEREAS, these transactions are consistent with the security and economic interests of the United States in East and Southeast Asia, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, including its bid for observer status in the International Criminal Police Organization, known as INTERPOL, is significant, as is its participation in the International

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30 Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the
31 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the World Trade
32 Organization, and

33 WHEREAS, as the world's 18th largest trading economy and
34 the 11th freest economy, Taiwan is devoted to bringing its
35 regulations into alignment with United Nations conventions,
36 including the organization's Sustainable Development Goals, and
37 has become a model of democratization for developing countries,
38 and

39 WHEREAS, while the people of Taiwan have consistently
40 supported meaningful participation and involvement in the United
41 Nations in the pursuit of world peace, they have been treated
42 unjustly for political reasons, and

43 WHEREAS, given Taiwan's support for the humanitarian
44 principles and goals of the United Nations, the voices of the
45 people of Taiwan deserve to be heard by the organization and the
46 international community, in keeping with Taiwan's affirmation of
47 faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of
48 each person, and in the equal rights of men and women in all
49 nations, and

50 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been a member of the United States'
51 Visa Waiver Program since November 1, 2012, and Taiwan passport
52 holders are eligible to participate in the United States' Global
53 Entry Program as of November 1, 2017, becoming the third
54 location in East Asia and the 12th worldwide to hold this
55 privilege, reflecting the cooperation between the United States
56 and Taiwan and making travel for business and tourism between
57 the two more convenient, and

58 WHEREAS, with respect to Taiwan's contributions in the

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59 global marketplace in both traditional and innovative
60 industries, support for continued bilateral dialogue under the
61 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, including efforts to
62 explore the possibility for a future bilateral investment
63 agreement and a free trade agreement with the United States,
64 will globalize Taiwan's economy and eliminate barriers to trade,
65 thus solidifying Taiwan's status as a robust and trustworthy
66 partner of the United States for trade and security in East
67 Asia, and

68 WHEREAS, the State of Florida maintains and values its
69 sister state relationship with Taiwan, which in 2016 was
70 Florida's seventh largest export market in Asia, and

71 WHEREAS, in addition to the sister state relationship that
72 exists between the State of Florida and Taiwan, sister city
73 relationships are maintained between Miami-Dade County and New
74 Taipei City, formerly Taipei County; Orlando and Tainan City;
75 Fort Lauderdale, the City of Miami, and Pensacola, respectively,
76 and Kaohsiung City; and between PortMiami and Port Kaohsiung,
77 and

78 WHEREAS, April 10, 2018, marks the 39th anniversary of the
79 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which codified in law the
80 basis for continued commercial and cultural relations between
81 the United States and Taiwan, NOW, THEREFORE,

82

83 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

84

85 That the Florida Senate recognizes the relationship between
86 and shared interests of the people of Taiwan and the United
87 States and supports these interests, as well as future

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88 opportunities for international trade between the two nations.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
90 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Taipei
91 Economic and Cultural Office in Miami and the Executive Office
92 of the Governor as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
93 Florida Senate.