

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2007

Stephen Hadley  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Hadley:

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the World Health Assembly (WHA) rejected the request by Taiwan to consider the country's membership in the World Health Organization. This is unfortunate. We are writing to encourage the Administration to honor its pledge regarding Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Public health threats like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Extensively Resistant Tuberculosis, and the H5N1 virus are not constrained by national boundaries. Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO creates a dangerous gap in the exchange of information between countries and puts global health security at risk.

In April 2002, President Bush signed Public Law No. 107-10, which included a clause mandating the Secretary of State to endorse "meaningful participation" for Taiwan in the WHA. Regrettably, very little progress has been made since that time, and, most recently, Taiwan was rejected at the WHA held in May.

As terrorist threats, over population, poverty and international travel make global pandemics more likely, it is extremely shortsighted to deprive the WHO of Taiwan's medical expertise. The recent episode of the American citizen traveling to Europe while infected with existing drug-resistant TB illustrates the importance of immediate and flawless international communication between health authorities regarding communicable diseases.

We urge the Administration to make a concerted effort to build a coalition of like-minded nations – in particular the member states of the European Union – in support of Taiwan's membership. We are very concerned that the recent report by the State Department to Congress regarding Taiwan's participation in the WHO did not mention any Administration initiatives in this regard.

The Administration must be very clear that it will not accept any memorandum of understanding (MOU) between China and the WHO regarding the exclusion of Taiwanese medical experts. It is essential that there will be no overt or covert MOU between the WHO and China regarding the implementation of the International Health Regulations, which will enter into force on June 15th 2007.

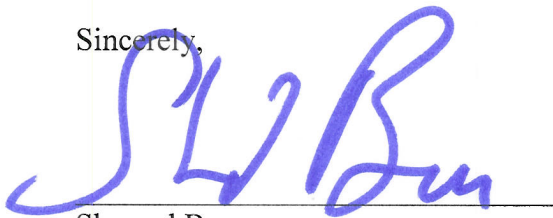
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We echo the words of former Senator Bob Dole, who recently noted that, "The case for admitting Taiwan into the WHO could not be clearer." We agree with Senator Dole, and also concur with his assertion that there must be a major diplomatic push to support Taiwan's candidacy.

As global health threats emerge, the public health of our nation increasingly depends on cooperation and communication between every nation. It is in America's best interest to ensure that Taiwan is a full member of the WHO.

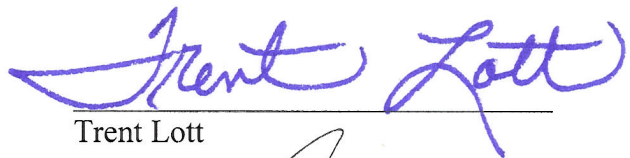
We look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



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Sherrod Brown



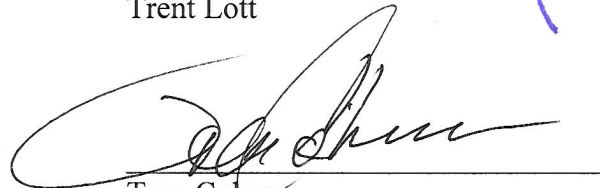
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Trent Lott



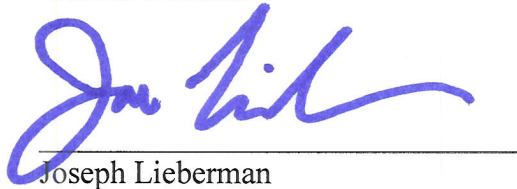
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Charles Schumer



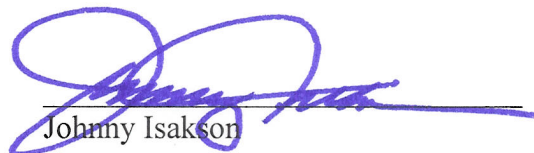
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Tom Coburn




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Joseph Lieberman



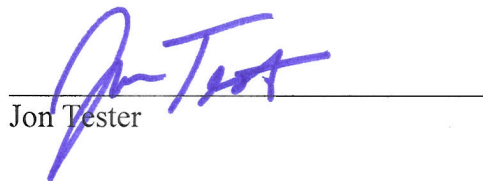
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Johnny Isakson



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Tim Johnson



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Jon Tester