

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 am**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE HEINZE**

**Amended: 5/12/03**

**Introduced: 5/7/03**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to support the granting of official Observer Status to**  
2 **the Republic of China at the World Health Assembly Annual Conference to be held at**  
3 **Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2003, and to support negotiation of a free trade agreement**  
4 **with the Republic of China.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** the United States, including the State of Alaska, and the Republic of  
7 China, in Taiwan, have long been valued and close partners in trade and cultural exchanges;  
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the Republic of China is the eighth largest trading partner of the United  
10 States and is a significant trading partner of the State of Alaska; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Republic of China is showing signs of significant potential for  
12 increasing trade with the United States and the State of Alaska as the world economy  
13 continues to recover from recession; and

14 **WHEREAS** free trade among the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the  
15 United States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

1           **WHEREAS** the importance of free trade is strongly acknowledged in Alaska, the  
2 Municipality of Anchorage and the City of Taipei having signed a Partner Cities Agreement  
3 to encourage trade and cultural exchange; and

4           **WHEREAS** the United States and the Republic of China have, for decades, been  
5 willing signers of mutual defense treaties; and

6           **WHEREAS** the health of the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the United  
7 States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

8           **WHEREAS** the people of the United States and the Republic of China have  
9 generously contributed to programs that benefit the health of the peoples of the world; and

10          **WHEREAS** it would be mutually beneficial to the people of the United States,  
11 including Alaska, and the people of the Republic of China to both assist and realize a  
12 continuation of international efforts the goal of which is to expand and further develop health-  
13 related knowledge; and

14          **WHEREAS** today there is a strong need for the rapid and complete international  
15 dissemination of health-medical information and research results in view of the recent  
16 outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), considered to be a worldwide  
17 health threat;

18          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States  
19 Congress to authorize the United States to endorse the request by the Republic of China to be  
20 granted Observer Status at the World Health Assembly Annual Conference in May 2003 at  
21 Geneva, Switzerland; and be it

22          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
23 Congress to encourage the administration of President George W. Bush to negotiate a free  
24 trade agreement with the Republic of China.

25          **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, President of  
26 the Republic of China; the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the  
27 Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Tommy Thompson,  
28 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the World Health Assembly; the  
29 World Health Organization; Jack K. C. Chiang, Director General, Taipei Economic and  
30 Cultural Office, 2001 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2410, Seattle, WA 98121; and to the Honorable  
31 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don

1 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.