

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 20, 2022

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
Director-General  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Director-General Tedros:

We, the members of the United States GOP Doctor's Caucus, write to you to express our deep concern at the World Health Organization's (WHO) continued marginalization of Taiwan's participation in the WHO's meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Your organization's ongoing exclusion of Taiwan deprives the right to health of the Taiwanese people and jeopardizes global health, while harming both the integrity of the WHO and the health security of all Member States.

There is no question that the WHO's actions and sympathizing with the Chinese Communist Party have led to the entire world turning upside down. Now, millions have died, and lives have been forever changed. This is a stark reminder that combating hazardous and unpredictable communicable diseases requires global unity and coordination. Leaving any one region out of the global health network creates a gap that undermines global health and safety. Taiwan's exclusion thus far has been an egregious handicap to the WHO and its Member States' health security.

Taiwan is a leader in public health and important contributor to international humanitarian aid work. It was also one of the first to alert the WHO, as early as December 2019, of the possibility of human-to-human transmission of a mysterious pneumonia in Wuhan, China — which later became the coronavirus that ravaged the entire world. Taiwan is willing and able to help advance global welfare. The world can only benefit from Taiwan's full participation in the WHO.

We are disappointed to see that under pressure from the Chinese Communist Party, the WHO has denied Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the organization, where Taiwan once held observer status from 2009 to 2016. Due to the same cause, Taiwan is not granted regular participation in the WHO's technical meetings, which prevents all Member States from benefiting from the expertise and resources Taiwan has to offer in this multilateral forum.

The Chinese Communist Party's malevolent actions to marginalize Taiwan from meaningfully participating — or as an observer — in the WHO, are detrimental to the global public good. This antagonistic behavior has continued long enough. The WHO, the organization you lead, should not be dictated by the communist Chinese regime and allow politics to create a loophole in the global disease prevention and control network.

Disease knows no borders, and only by working alongside all our global partners may we eliminate this threat and ensure the integrity of global public health. The WHO once ignored Taiwan, and the world paid the price. Thus, we urge you not to repeat the same mistake.

The WHO has no rules preventing the Director-General to invite observers to its annual assembly. Taiwan was invited to attend the World Health Assembly from 2009 to 2016 under the invitation of your predecessor. As you are poised to be re-elected to another 5-year term, we urge you to demonstrate leadership by not caving to the pressure of the Chinese Communist Party and extend an invitation to Taiwan to participate in the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, May 22 - 28, 2022. We also urge you to invite Taiwan to attend all meetings, mechanisms, and activities of the WHO.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



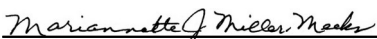
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



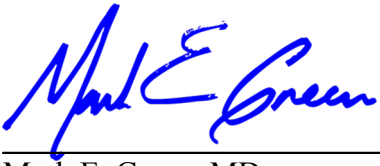
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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Green, MD  
Member of Congress