



House Joint Resolution No. 50

Resolution Act No. 21-3

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT-TAIWAN SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have enjoyed a long history of friendship and have maintained a fruitful sister-state relationship encompassing cultural, educational and economic exchanges since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut exported 194 million dollars' worth of products to Taiwan in 2019, making Taiwan one of the major foreign markets for Connecticut, and strengthening a robust bilateral trade relationship as well as fostering a continued collaboration between their respective industries; and

WHEREAS, as a full-fledged democracy and robust free-market economy, Taiwan shares with the United States the principles and values that provide a strong foundation for mutually beneficial relations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship as well as to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan, and the TRA has served as the

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cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and has helped to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States and Taiwan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on health cooperation to strengthen cooperation on global health security, control of infectious diseases, and the development of drugs and vaccines, intended to battle COVID-19 and to prevent future international health crises through further collaborations; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandums of Understanding recently signed by the United States and Taiwan on scientific and technological cooperation and international education cooperation support broader exchanges between Taiwan and the state of Connecticut on innovation and cooperation on critical supply chains and education; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition agreements with 34 states of the United States since 2013, and more than 16,000 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of the aforementioned agreements, and were Taiwan and the state of Connecticut to enter into a driver's license reciprocity agreement with each other, such an agreement would help increase the mobility of international students, businessmen, and academics from both sides; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the United States Visa Waiver Program and Global Entry, and the reciprocal travel facilitation enjoyed by United States citizens when visiting Taiwan, allows Taiwan and the United States, including the sister-state of Connecticut, to develop closer relations and to witness rapid growth in all areas of bilateral development; and

WHEREAS, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation

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Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and will continue supporting Taiwan's participation in other international organizations; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan share a long-term and close economic relationship, including 82.5 billion dollars in bilateral trade in 2020, making Taiwan the ninth largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) with the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize the twenty-second anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister-State Relationship, and reiterate its support of a closer economic and trade partnership between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.