
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 208 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, ROWE, SHUSTERMAN, MADDEN, KINSEY, STURLA,
R. MACKENZIE, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, FLICK, KHAN, GILLEN AND
GREEN, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the friendship and bilateral relationship between the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Taiwan and the signing of a
3 United States-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement.

4 WHEREAS, The United States and Republic of China, known
5 commonly in the United States as Taiwan, are bonded by a shared
6 commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a
7 free market economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Taiwan have
9 developed an enduring and mutually beneficial partnership that
10 facilitates economic, cultural and interpersonal exchanges over
11 the years; and

12 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed the
13 landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close
14 bilateral relationship as well as to advance mutual security and
15 commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan; and

16 WHEREAS, The TRA serves as the cornerstone of United States-
17 Taiwan relations, preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan
18 Strait; and

1 WHEREAS, Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is crucial
2 to the maintenance of a free and open Indo-Pacific; and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an indispensable partner in safeguarding
4 peace and stability in the region; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the
6 United States, with 2022 bilateral trade totaling \$135.5
7 billion; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic
9 Framework (IPEF) will help bolster the economic potential of the
10 region by defining shared trade objectives among partners and
11 addressing standards for technology, supply chains, the digital
12 economy and clean energy; and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan supports this initiative and wishes to become
14 a full member of IPEF; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century
16 Trade intends to develop concrete methods to deepen our economic
17 and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on
18 shared values and promote innovative and inclusive economic
19 growth for our workers and businesses, including through new
20 trade agreements; and

21 WHEREAS, In order to strengthen bilateral trade, the
22 government of Taiwan has expressed its desire to sign a
23 Bilateral Trade Agreement and an Avoidance of Double Taxation
24 Agreement with the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania reopened a trade
26 and investment office in Taiwan in 2022, enhancing the robust
27 economic relationship between the two sides; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan is Pennsylvania's sixth largest export market
29 in Asia, and Pennsylvania is home to a growing number of
30 Taiwanese companies that create thousands of jobs throughout

1 Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, Moreover, a Taiwanese shipping company recently
3 became the first Asian shipping company to stop at the Port of
4 Philadelphia, directly connecting Philadelphia with Taiwan and
5 other Asian countries, thus further expanding trade between
6 Pennsylvania and Asia; and

7 WHEREAS, Life Sciences Pennsylvania signed a memorandum of
8 understanding with the Taiwan Bio Industry Organization in 2015,
9 and the Pittsburgh Robotics Network joined a strategic alliance
10 with the Taiwan-USA Industrial Cooperation Promotion Office,
11 Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the Taiwan Automation
12 Intelligence and Robotics Association to strengthen cooperation
13 in the fields of robotics, automation, AI and smart
14 manufacturing in 2021; and

15 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Taiwan signed
16 an agreement regarding the mutual recognition of driver's
17 licenses in 2015, deepening relations and providing greater
18 convenience to people on both sides; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States-Taiwan Education Initiative was
20 launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation on international
21 education and highlight Taiwan's ability to provide Mandarin
22 language instruction; and

23 WHEREAS, Given Mandarin's designation as a critical language
24 as well as Taiwan's plans to be bilingual by 2030, schools and
25 institutions of higher education in both Pennsylvania and Taiwan
26 are encouraged to enhance their exchanges, as exemplified by the
27 partnership between The Pennsylvania State University and
28 National Taiwan Normal University; and

29 WHEREAS, The United States has assisted Taiwan in
30 participating in the World Health Organization, International

1 Civil Aviation Organization and International Criminal Police
2 Organization and will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful
3 participation in these and other international organizations;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support the friendship and
7 bilateral relationship between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 and Taiwan and the signing of a United States-Taiwan Bilateral
9 Trade Agreement; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
11 Governor Josh Shapiro, the United States Secretary of State
12 Antony Blinken and Ambassador James Lee of the Taipei Economic
13 and Cultural Office in New York.