



H.Con.Res. 136 – Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits to the United States by democratically-elected officials of Taiwan

Floor Situation

H.Con.Res. 136 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH) on May 1, 2007. The Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules.

H.Con.Res. 136 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2007.

Summary

H.Con.Res. 136 resolves that it is the sense of Congress that

- Restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically-elected President of Taiwan, should be lifted;
- The United States should allow direct high-level exchanges at the Cabinet level with the Government of Taiwan, in order to strengthen a policy dialogue with Taiwan; and,
- It is in the interest of the United States to strengthen links between the United States and the democratically-elected officials of Taiwan and demonstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Background

The United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, DC. These restrictions deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a transition to democracy with a vibrant economy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law.

Cost

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.