



**H.Res. 676 - Declaring that it shall continue to be the policy of the United States, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and services as may be necessary for Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.**

### **Floor Situation**

H.Res. 676 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 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) on September 25, 2007, and was reported by voice vote from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.Res. 676 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 2, 2007.

### **Background**

U.S. arms sales to Taiwan are governed by the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8), three joint communiqués, and the Six Assurances, which are guidelines used to conduct business with Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act specifies that it is U.S. policy to:

- Consider any non-peaceful means to determine Taiwan's future "a threat" to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of "grave concern" to the United States;
- "To provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character;"
- And "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion" jeopardizing the security, or social or economic system of Taiwan's people.

In 2006, Taiwan's defense ministry requested funding from the Legislative Yuan (LY), the legislative body of Taiwan, to purchase 66 F-16C/D fighter planes. The LY's defense and budget committees passed an amended 2007 defense budget that froze \$488 million for the purchase of the F-16C/Ds pending U.S. provision of price and availability data. These funds will expire October 31, 2007. The Administration has not yet issued pricing data.

On May 25, 2007, the Secretary of Defense issued a report to Congress on the People's Republic of China's (PRC) military strength, which showed that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is an increasing threat to Taiwan. The PLA Air Force has 425 fighters and 275 bombers within range of Taiwan, while Taiwan currently has 330 fighter planes.

**Summary**

H.Res. 676 resolves that:

- It shall continue to be the policy of the United States, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and services as may be necessary for Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability; and
- The United States should determine the nature and quantity of such defense articles and services `based solely' upon the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan.

**Cost**

H.Res. 676 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Staff Contact:**

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.