



H.Con.Res. 278 - Supporting Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 278 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 December 19, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but never considered.

H.Con.Res. 278 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 5, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 278 resolves, with the House of Representatives and Senate concurring, that that it is the sense of Congress that:

- The United States Government should reaffirm its unwavering commitment to Taiwan's democracy and security; and
- International delegations should be encouraged to visit Taiwan for the purpose of witnessing the presidential elections in March 2008.

BACKGROUND

Taiwan will hold its fourth direct and democratic presidential elections on March 22, 2008. The last presidential elections occurred in March 2004, when President Chen Shui-bian was re-elected to a second term by 50.1% of the popular vote. President Chen's first election in 2000 represented the first transfer of power from one party to another in Taiwan's history.

Taiwan is a strong democratic ally and important economic partner of the United States. Taiwan has taken significant strides in improving its human rights record over the previous two decades.

STAFF CONTACT

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