

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5870

To establish a joint United States-Taiwan Infectious Disease Monitoring Center to serve as an early warning center in the case of an infectious disease outbreak in the Indo-Pacific region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Mr. KHANNA (for himself and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a joint United States-Taiwan Infectious Disease Monitoring Center to serve as an early warning center in the case of an infectious disease outbreak in the Indo-Pacific region.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Taiwan
5 Public Health Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the
 2 Infectious Disease Monitoring Center established
 3 pursuant to section 3.

4 (2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 5 TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-
 6 tees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
 8 the Senate;

9 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
 10 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

11 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
 12 the House of Representatives; and

13 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
 14 merce of the House of Representatives.

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 16 the Secretary of State.

17 **SEC. 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE MONITORING CENTER.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
 19 tion with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
 20 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
 21 agencies, shall—

22 (1) establish an Infectious Disease Monitoring
 23 Center within the American Institute in Taiwan in
 24 Taipei, Taiwan; and

1 (2) not later than 1 year after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act, complete a study of how best
3 to establish the Center that includes—

4 (A) consultation with the Taiwan Eco-
5 nomic and Cultural Representative Office in the
6 United States, the Taiwan Centers for Disease
7 Control, and any other relevant instrumental-
8 ities of the Taiwanese Government; and

9 (B) a consideration of the personnel, mate-
10 rial, and funding requirements necessary to es-
11 tablish and operate the Center.

12 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Center shall seek to partner
13 with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control to conduct
14 health monitoring of infectious diseases in the region by—

15 (1) regularly monitoring, analyzing, and dis-
16 seminating open-source material from countries in
17 the region, including viral strains, bacterial
18 subtypes, and other pathogens;

19 (2) engaging in people-to-people contacts with
20 medical specialists and public health officials in the
21 region;

22 (3) providing expertise and information on in-
23 fectious diseases to the Government of the United
24 States and the Taiwanese Government; and

1 (4) carrying out other appropriate activities, as
2 determined by the Director of the Center.

3 (c) STAFFING.—

4 (1) INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERTS.—The Sec-
5 retary of Health and Human Services shall annually
6 submit a list to the Secretary that identifies not
7 fewer than 3 infectious disease experts, from among
8 the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for
9 Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and
10 Drug Administration, who are recommended to serve
11 as detailees to the Center.

12 (2) OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—
13 The heads of other relevant Federal departments
14 and agencies may submit recommendations to the
15 Secretary of qualified persons within their respective
16 departments and agencies to serve as detailees to the
17 Center.

18 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary, after consid-
19 ering the detailees recommended pursuant to para-
20 graphs (1) and (2)—

21 (A) shall appoint, for a period to be deter-
22 mined by the Secretary—

23 (i) not fewer than 3 infectious disease
24 experts detailed from among the National
25 Institutes of Health, the Centers for Dis-

1 ease Control and Prevention, and the Food
2 and Drug Administration to work at the
3 Center, including 1 expert to serve as the
4 Director of the Center; and

5 (ii) not fewer than 1 qualified person
6 from any other relevant Federal depart-
7 ment or agency, including the Department
8 of State and the United States Agency for
9 International Development, to work at the
10 Center;

11 (B) may employ qualified foreign service
12 nationals or locally engaged staff who are con-
13 sidered citizens of Taiwan to work at the Cen-
14 ter; and

15 (C) may enter into agreements with the
16 Taiwanese Government regarding employees of
17 the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control who
18 may be tasked with supporting or coordinating
19 with the Center.

20 (4) COMPENSATION.—Individuals appointed by
21 the Secretary pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) of para-
22 graph (3)(A)—

23 (A) shall be placed on leave without pay
24 from their respective Federal departments and

1 agencies for the duration of such appointment;
2 and

3 (B) shall be compensated by the Depart-
4 ment of State.

5 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the rel-
8 evant congressional committees that contains the results
9 of the study described in section 3(a)(2), including—

10 (1) a plan on how to establish and operate the
11 Center, including—

12 (A) the personnel, material, and funding
13 requirements necessary to establish and operate
14 the Center; and

15 (B) the proposed structure and composi-
16 tion of Center personnel;

17 (2) a description of the efforts that have been
18 undertaken to establish the Center; and

19 (3) a description of any consultations or agree-
20 ments between the Department of State and the
21 Taiwanese Government regarding the establishment
22 and operation of the Center, including—

23 (A) the role that employees of the Taiwan
24 Centers for Disease Control would play in sup-
25 porting or coordinating with the Center; and

1 (B) whether any employees of the Taiwan
2 Centers for Disease Control would be detailed
3 to, or co-located with, the Center.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—There are authorized
6 to be appropriated to the Department of State—

7 (1) for fiscal year 2022, \$300,000, of which—

8 (A) \$250,000 shall be used to conduct the
9 study described in section 3(a)(2); and

10 (B) \$50,000 shall be used to determine the
11 selection of detailees to the Center from among
12 the National Institutes of Health, the Centers
13 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food
14 and Drug Administration, and other relevant
15 Federal departments or agencies; and

16 (2) for fiscal year 2023, and each succeeding
17 fiscal year, \$50,000, which shall be used to deter-
18 mine the selection of detailees to the Center from
19 among the National Institutes of Health, the Cen-
20 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food
21 and Drug Administration, and other relevant Fed-
22 eral departments or agencies.

23 (b) AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN.—There are
24 authorized to be appropriated to the American Institute

1 in Taiwan for fiscal year 2022, and each succeeding fiscal
2 year, \$1,300,000, of which—

3 (1) \$1,200,000 shall be used to employ the per-
4 sonnel described in section 3(c)(3); and

5 (2) \$100,000 shall be used for management ex-
6 penses related to operating the Center.

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