

Senate Resolution 479

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Rhett of the 33rd, Robertson of the 29th, Rahman of the 5th, Payne of the 54th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the State of Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are like-minded in that both deeply cherish the
4 common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from the authoritarian
6 neighbor of China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security by flying in Taiwan's air
7 defense identification zone (ADIZ), disseminating disinformation and launching
8 cyber-attacks, and repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the international system, as
9 demonstrated through its denial of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly
10 (WHA); and

11 WHEREAS, in 2021, the United States and Taiwan have experienced strengthening in
12 bilateral relations; the State Department loosened restrictions on official contacts with
13 Taiwan; both sides resumed the eleventh Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
14 (TIFA) Council meeting; the United States continues to approve its arms sales to Taiwan,
15 demonstrating that the United States has always placed great importance on Taiwan's defense
16 capabilities; Taiwan and the United States, along with Japan, welcomed Australia as the

17 fourth official partner of the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF); and most
18 recently, the United States included Taiwan in the 2021 Summit for Democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan has contributed extensive resources to help the international
20 community, including the United States, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through the
21 global donation of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of thousands of
22 isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of thermometers, reciprocally, the United States has
23 donated 4 million doses of the Moderna vaccine to Taiwan; and

24 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the second-freest country in Asia, scoring 94 out of 100 and
25 seventh in the world in Freedom House's latest report on global freedom; and

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States
27 is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the
28 United States; Taiwan is the 17th export market of Georgia, Georgia's 11th largest import
29 country, investing \$327.5 million to Georgia and supporting an estimated 5,401 jobs in
30 Georgia; recently, South Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have
31 established trade offices in Taiwan to attract more investments; and

32 WHEREAS, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an even closer partnership on business,
33 educational, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges between the citizens of both nations,
34 and to recover better together in the worldwide, post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that it encourages the
36 members of this body to join the Southeastern State Legislative Taiwan Caucus (SESTC),
37 calling like-minded states and international communities to support Taiwan's democracy,
38 freedom, and the nation's meaningful participation in international organizations and

39 cooperation, such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation
40 Organization, INTERPOL, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and CPTPP.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it supports the early start of negotiations on a
42 US-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), establishing a trade office in Taiwan, as
43 Taiwanese companies are looking for diverse and free markets in the United States instead
44 of China.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it urges Georgia and Taiwan to sign K-12 and higher
46 education cooperation MOUs aiming at Mandarin-English language exchange programs,
47 encouraging its officials and members of legislature to conduct more frequent exchanges
48 with their Taiwanese counterparts.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Governor Brian
51 Kemp; Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger; and Mr. Elliot Wang, Director-General of the
52 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.