WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership. Since 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act has provided a strong foundation for sustaining substantive relations between the United States and Taiwan, including Taiwan and Rhode Island through continued exchanges, engagement, and cooperation rooted in our common values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, thereby assuring a bright future in our bilateral relationship; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has worked tirelessly to safeguard democracy and way of life in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan’s 24 million people, and expressed commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and State, in a formal letter sent to the Governors of all 50 states dated September 30, 2019, stated that “expanding relations with Taiwan in areas such as trade, education, investment, and tourism is fully compatible with and supports U.S. policy and can be beneficial to your state”; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan’s desire to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States and the United States Senate unanimously passing the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI) of 2019” (S.1678) on October 28, 2019, affirming that the "United States should emerge in bilateral trade negotiations with Taiwan"; and

WHEREAS, The Taiwan Government has donated 135,000 surgical masks and 5,000
N95 masks to the State of Rhode Island to assist in the fight in the fight against Covid-19,
demonstrating that Taiwan is a responsible stakeholder and shall be included in the World Health
Organization (WHO) and the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan’s 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services
amounting to approximately $90 billion in 2020, which helped create or support approximately
373,288 United States jobs; and

WHEREAS, New England exported more than $1 billion in goods to Taiwan in which
Rhode Island exported $24 million in goods, making Taiwan the 17th largest export market of
Rhode Island in the world and the 6th largest export market in Asia (2018); and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through
bilateral agreements, and discussions of possibly opening a joint trade office in Taipei, to include
Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont that will further enhance
bilateral trade opportunities and Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Being a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, Taiwan’s inclusion in
international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal
Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), is
imperative for the best interest and safety of the international community. In addition, Taiwan’s
participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is
necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
supports a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Biden Administration, including
the signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), and seeks to further strengthen the Rhode
Island-Taiwan partnership, and encourages Rhode Island State Government to further explore
ways to strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between the State of Rhode Island and Taiwan
in all areas, including signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taiwan regarding
bilateral economic and trade exchange and cooperation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports Taiwan’s participation in international
organizations and agreements, including WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO; and be
it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the
United States, the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress, the Honorable Daniel
McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China
1 (Taiwan), and Director-General Jonathan Sun, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.