

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0550  
June 17, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

I write today out of a deepening sense of concern for Taiwan, which is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, as well as a severe deficit of vaccine supply. As the Administration begins sharing the country's surplus vaccine doses with countries in need, and with a goal of distributing nearly 80 million doses by the end of June, I encourage the prioritization of Taiwan in the initial allocation.<sup>1</sup>

As of this month, approximately 24,000 (0.1 percent) of Taiwan's 23.5 million citizens have been fully vaccinated, and an additional three percent have received their first dose.<sup>2</sup> On June 4, in the middle of a surge in new cases, Japan generously donated to Taiwan 1.24 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine at zero cost. As of June 15, Japan is reportedly considering a second donation of similar volume. In every way, the United States is in a similar position to help a key friend in the Indo-Pacific region.

You should be aware that Taiwan generously donated critically needed PPE to the U.S. at the height of the pandemic and when we faced a shortage. As the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) grows ever more aggressive toward Taiwan, and allegedly continues to interfere in the island's pursuit of effective vaccines directly from producers, the U.S. must not be an absent friend.<sup>3</sup> With 52 percent of our population fully vaccinated and a surplus of vaccine doses, America should be as supportive of the people of Taiwan in their time of need as they were for us.

While several Senators recently announced during their visit to Taiwan that 750,000 doses from this country would be allocated to Taiwan at the beginning of the month, this is not a sufficient volume, and I believe we can do more.<sup>4</sup>

I respectfully ask the Administration to at least match the generosity Japan has shown in delivering 1.24 million life-saving doses of vaccines to Taiwan, and to do it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> [U.S. Lays Out Plans For How It Will Share Surplus COVID-19 Vaccines Abroad : Coronavirus Updates : NPR](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations - Statistics and Research - Our World in Data](#)

<sup>3,4</sup> [Taiwan Accuses China of Blocking Access to BioNTech Vaccines - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)