

## **Chairman Gallagher Remarks**

*Global Taiwan Institute – The Taiwan Relations Act at 45 – Keynote Address*

*4.10.24*

*as prepared for delivery*

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Hi everyone. My name is Mike Gallagher, and for a few more days, I am the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. Over the past seven years, I have worked closely with Taiwanese officials and enjoyed several memorable visits to your beautiful and flourishing democracy. Throughout my time in Congress, Taiwan has proven time and again why it is one of America's most important friends, from generously donating medical supplies during the early days of COVID, to forging new levels of economic cooperation, to of course, standing strong in the face of totalitarian aggression.

For forty-five years, the Taiwan Relations Act has served as the bedrock of our relationship. Speaking as a newly minted quadragenarian myself, I know the wisdom and perhaps dash of existential dread that comes with middle age. The good news is that as we gather to celebrate the TRA and the US-Taiwan relationship, it is clear that our relationship is as strong as ever. Despite attempts by the CCP to silence and suppress Taiwan on the international stage, the Taiwanese people have stood strong, and made clear that it is they themselves who will determine the future of Taiwan.

In my most recent visit to your country this past February, I had the opportunity to meet with a slew of newly elected legislators and officials from all of Taiwan's major parties, and well as with President-elect William Lai. I came away with renewed assurance that Taiwan's leaders are committed to Taiwan's prosperity, defense, and the continued growth of the U.S.-Taiwan partnership.

I also had the opportunity to meet once more with President Tsai Ing-wen. For the last eight years, President Tsai has served as a beacon of courage, and a global ambassador for Taiwan and its democracy. She has stood strong in the face of unrelenting pressure from the Chinese Communist Party while being a champion on behalf of all democracies. While the world will miss her leadership, I am confident her successors will continue to carry this mantle.

While it is important to mark and commemorate the accomplishments of the past 45 years, we must speak plainly. The threats to Taiwan are growing, and they are dire. On both sides of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, we must act with urgency to ensure Taiwan does not become the next Ukraine, targeted by authoritarian aggression because of its freedom and because of its friends.

One critical piece of progress in recent years has been President Biden's commitment, not once, not twice, not three, but four times that the United States would stand unambiguously with Taiwan, come what may. These statements were as overdue as they were welcome. Beijing will

not be deterred by ambiguity but by strength—strength in our combined force of arms, our shared determination, and our unity in belief and action that Taiwan’s future will be determined solely by the people of Taiwan.

As Americans, we could have no other policy.

I want to say one thing to the people of Taiwan: while I am leaving elected office shortly, I am not leaving your corner. I am and will always be a friend of Taiwan. I may be leaving Congress but I am not leaving the fight. I look forward to many more years of working together to strengthen our ties, deter aggression, and visiting a democratic Taiwan that serves as an inspiration to all.

Thank you.