

## U.S. Senator Plans Taiwan Visit as White House Shifts Focus

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Senator Roger Wicker, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is scheduled to lead a bipartisan congressional delegation to Taiwan in August 2025. The trip comes amid growing questions about the current administration's cooling posture toward the island, signaling continued legislative support despite evolving White House policy.

Wicker's visit is expected to focus on regional security, defense cooperation, and economic partnership. It follows recent moves by the administration that reportedly limited Taiwan's diplomatic visibility in the United States, including denying Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te transit through New York and postponing a planned visit by Taiwan's defense minister. The actions have raised concerns in Taipei over a perceived shift in U.S. commitment.

Taiwanese officials view the planned visit as reassurance that American political backing remains intact. In contrast, Beijing has condemned the initiative, issued formal protests and called the trip a threat to its sovereignty. Despite China's objections, the delegation plans to proceed, underscoring Congress's role in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

Security analysts note the timing of the visit is significant. With China increasing military pressure in the Taiwan Strait, the trip is seen as a clear signal that lawmakers intend to uphold longstanding defense and diplomatic ties. Observers also note that Taiwan continues to face pressure to meet U.S. expectations on trade and semiconductor production, adding complexity to its geopolitical position.

The trip reflects a broader trend of congressional engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. While executive policy may vary, Congress has maintained consistent support for Taiwan through legislation and official visits. The upcoming delegation aims to reinforce that bipartisan consensus.

In Taipei, the visit is being welcomed as a message of stability. Officials hope it will not only strengthen defense and trade cooperation but also reaffirm Taiwan's strategic importance to American interests in Asia.

Analysts suggest the move could encourage additional congressional action to deepen formal ties, regardless of White House shifts.

As Wicker and his colleagues prepare for their departure, the visit is expected to carry weight both symbolically and strategically. It serves as a reminder that Congress remains an active player in shaping U.S. foreign relations, especially in regions where credibility and clarity are increasingly tested.