
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1052 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, CORBIN, AUMENT, V. BROWN, MAHONEY, THOMAS,
MILLARD, DAVIS, JAMES, PICKETT, KAUFFMAN, MAJOR, SWANGER,
ROCK, KIRKLAND, GILLEN AND MURT, OCTOBER 3, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 3, 2014

A RESOLUTION

Encouraging the medical community of this Commonwealth to help raise awareness of unethical organ transplant practices in China.

WHEREAS, Falun Gong is a spiritual practice with key values of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance for achieving physical and spiritual well-being through exercise and meditation; and

WHEREAS, Since July 1999, Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party, as documented by the United States Department of State, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and many other governmental and third-party organizations; and

WHEREAS, Persecution of Falun Gong practitioners involves the widespread use of torture, forced labor work, brainwashing and other abuses in extralegal reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers and prisons; and

WHEREAS, Prisoners are forced to undergo medical exams, blood testing, urine testing and x-rays, despite being tortured; and

WHEREAS, The organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's requirement of transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways; and

WHEREAS, The People's Republic of China implemented regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Former Vice Minister of Health, Huang Jiefu, admitted publicly that more than 90% of transplant organs extracted from deceased donors stemmed from executed prisoners in China; and

WHEREAS, Organs were forcibly harvested from Falun Gong practitioners in detention centers and prisons without voluntary and informed consent; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that since 1999, more than 1 million Falun Gong practitioners have been detained and that approximately 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been killed for their organs; and

WHEREAS, Hospitals receive organs from these prisons and the harvested organs are then used for transplants; and

WHEREAS, Recipients for these transplants are Chinese or individuals from abroad, including United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the People's Republic of China continues to deny reports that many organs are taken without the consent of prisoners, yet prevents independent verification of its transplant system; and

WHEREAS, In June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified before the United States House of Representatives International

Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human Rights that hospitals work in collusion with state security agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without written consent of the organ donors and that these transplants were a lucrative source of income; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State, in its 2011 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices stated, "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ harvesting, particularly from Falun Gong practitioners and Uighurs"; and

WHEREAS, In May 2012, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong released telephone transcripts and audio recordings of conversations between undercover investigators and senior Chinese Communist Party officials, in which several officials indicated that central authorities were aware of or involved in organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Voluntary and informed consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and international medical organizations state that prisoners deprived of their freedom are not in the position to give consent; and

WHEREAS, The practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine; and

WHEREAS, The killing of prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end the practice of forced organ harvesting from all prisoners,

particularly from Falun Gong prisoners and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the United States Government to commence a full and transparent investigation into organ transplant practices in the People's Republic of China; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the United States Government to prohibit any doctors involved in unethical organ procurement or transplantation surgery using organs harvested from living prisoners in China from gaining entry into the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the medical community of the Commonwealth to help raise awareness of unethical organ transplant practices in China.