

WHEREAS, Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a peaceful spiritual practice with key values of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance for achieving physical and spiritual well-being through exercises and meditation; and

WHEREAS, The Falun Dafa philosophy espoused the idea that when the heart is pure, the mind balanced, and the body energized, health and happiness are a natural result; individuals have been empowered to leave behind addictions and bad habits; families, to live in peace together; and communities, to embrace what is virtuous and life –affirming; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of Falun Dafa in improving health, as well as the principles upon which it is founded, have proven to be immensely popular throughout the world and have attracted people in 114 countries and regions; and

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

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist authority is persecuting Falun Dafa practitioners with this policy: "Defame Falun Dafa's reputations, destroy practitioners physically, bankrupt them financially"; and

WHEREAS, Over 3,700 Falun Dafa practitioners have died from documented torture; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. 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, Canadian human rights attorney David Matas and former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific David Kilgour co-wrote the investigative report "Bloody Harvest: Revised Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China"; and

WHEREAS, The Matas-Kilgour report concluded that the organ harvesting allegations were true and that tens of thousands of Falun Dafa practitioners may have been killed for their organs; and

WHEREAS, The harvested organs are then used by the hospitals associated with the prison for transplants, with the customers for these transplants often being individuals from elsewhere, including the United States; 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

RESOLVED, The Albany County Legislature calls upon the Chinese Communist Party to immediately stop persecuting Falun Dafa practitioners; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States government and the U.S. President to investigate organ transplants in China and take all reasonable steps to bring an end to the revolting practice of harvesting organ from living Falun Dafa practitioners for transplants; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we request the United States government to prohibit any doctors who performed transplants using organs harvested from Falun Dafa practitioners from gaining entry into the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this proclamation to the Falun Dafa practitioners of the County of Albany, the President of the United States of America Barack Obama, and the Chinese Ambassador to the United Stated Cui Tiankai.

Wisher a. Morete Merton D. Sempson