



# Commonwealth of Virginia

General Assembly  
RICHMOND

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Religious Persecution and Forced Organ Harvesting in the People's Republic of China

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This July marks 21 years since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched an intensive, nation-wide persecution to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong. In addition to mental and physical torture, the immoral practice of non-consenting organ harvesting by the CCP has also been documented. Today, the undersigned members of the Virginia General Assembly write to request forceful, and sustained action by the United States to protect religious liberty and to bring an end to this inhumane practice.

We recognize and appreciate the bi-partisan efforts already taken to raise awareness of this tragedy, including House Resolution 343 (2016, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen) and Senate Resolution 274 (2019, Sen. Menendez). These resolutions detail in stark terms the horror being inflicted on practitioners of Falun Gong and other religious and ethnic minority groups in China. We also appreciate your statements that religious freedom is a top priority for the Administration and that the United States "will not stand idly by while abusers of this first American freedom persecute, discriminate against, and revile people because of their beliefs."<sup>1</sup>

While the resolutions provide the history of persecution and cite investigations by well-respected individuals and organizations, they cannot compare to the powerful, gut-wrenching stories directly from victim's families and survivors. These are just a few excerpts from a survivor now living in Fairfax, Virginia: "Left in death bed with four limbs tied." "Handcuffed and hung in painful position." "Violently force-fed." "High-voltage electric shock." "Not allowed to sleep for three days." We cannot even imagine having to endure this torture. And fortunately, from the safety of our own nation, we do not have to. But our position affords us with an even greater responsibility to act.

In addition, we ask that the Department of State take action here at home to help educate Americans about the practice of non-consensual organ harvesting in China. Organ transplants

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<sup>1</sup> Secretary Pompeo Tweet, June 10, 2020.

are a marvel of science and can be a selfless gesture that gives the gift of life. However, organ transplants should never be conducted under force or duress. We are concerned that patients from the United States who go to China for organ transplants do not know that the organs they may receive are from political prisoners. Increasing our own education efforts will help to reduce the demand for this immoral practice.

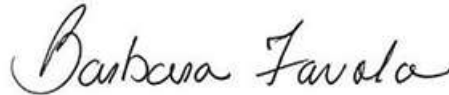
In China, people are risking their lives to raise awareness of the truth. We are writing in solidarity with the survivors and those who can no longer speak for themselves. We ask for your leadership, and the considerable leverage of the United States, to ensure that next year we are not observing 22 years of persecution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David L. Bulova  
37<sup>th</sup> House District



Barbara A. Favola  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Kaye Kory  
38<sup>th</sup> House District



John J. Bell  
13<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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68<sup>th</sup> House District



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33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



Leslie (Les) R. Adams  
16<sup>th</sup> House District



R. Creigh Deeds  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



John G. Avoli  
20<sup>th</sup> House District



Siobhan S. Dunnivant  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Hala S. Ayala  
51<sup>st</sup> House District



Ghazala F. Hashmi  
10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



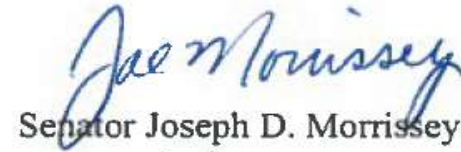
Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.  
100<sup>th</sup> House District



David W. Marsden  
37<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Ronnie Campbell  
24<sup>th</sup> House District



Senator Joseph D. Morrissey  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Mark L. Cole  
88<sup>th</sup> House District



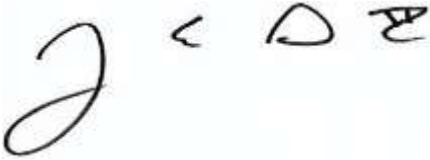
Mark J. Peake  
22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



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67<sup>th</sup> House District



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34<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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60<sup>th</sup> House District



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36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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59<sup>th</sup> House District



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7<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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36<sup>th</sup> House District



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55<sup>th</sup> House District



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87<sup>th</sup> House District



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42<sup>nd</sup> House District



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40<sup>th</sup> House District



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Delores L. McQuinn  
70<sup>th</sup> House District



Lee R. Ware  
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John J. McGuire, III  
56<sup>th</sup> House District



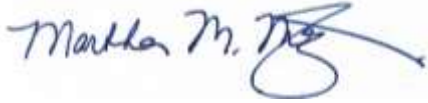
Vivian E. Watts  
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Michael J. Webert  
18<sup>th</sup> House District



Martha M. Mugler  
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Rodney T. Willett  
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Michael P. Mullin  
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Tony O. Wilt  
26<sup>th</sup> House District

Copies to:

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Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senator  
Honorable Rob Wittman, Congressman, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Honorable Elaine Luria, Congresswoman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Honorable Bobby Scott, Congressman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Honorable Donald McEachin, Congressman, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Denver Riggleman, Congressman, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Ben Cline, Congressman, 6<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Abigail Spanberger, Congresswoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Don Beyer, Congressman, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Morgan Griffith, Congressman, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Jennifer Wexton, Congresswoman, 10<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Gerry Connolly, Congressman, 11<sup>th</sup> District