
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, JAMES, READSHAW, GAINNEY, MURT, PICKETT,
PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLARD, GODSHALL, CALTAGIRONE, WARD,
SCHLOSSBERG, TOEPEL, KAUFFMAN AND HEFFLEY, JANUARY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 23, 2017

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Prisoners are forced to undergo medical exams, blood

1 testing, urine testing and x-rays, despite being tortured; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, In June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified
28 before the United States House of Representatives International
29 Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Human
30 Rights that hospitals work in collusion with state security

1 agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without
2 written consent of the organ donors and that these transplants
3 were a lucrative source of income; and

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the
26 Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end
27 the practice of forced organ harvesting from all prisoners,
28 particularly from Falun Gong prisoners and members of other
29 religious and ethnic minority groups; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the

1 Government of the People's Republic of China to increase
2 accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system
3 and punish those responsible for abuses; and be it further

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

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

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