

By: Senator B. Sample

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK TO END
ORGAN HARVESTING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
TO WORK TO END ORGAN HARVESTING FROM
PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WHEREAS, extensive and credible reports have revealed mass killing of prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, primarily practitioners of the Chinese spiritual practice of Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to obtain organs for transplants; and

WHEREAS, the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's Guiding Principles On Human Organ Transplantation regarding traceability and transparency in organ procurement pathways, and the government of the People's Republic of China has resisted independent scrutiny of the system; and

WHEREAS, traditional Chinese custom requires bodies to be preserved intact after death, which results in rare voluntary organ donation, but China's transplantation industry has increased significantly since 2000; and



WHEREAS, the 2017 Freedom House report, "The Battle for China's Spirit", states that "available evidence suggests that forced extraction of organs from Falun Gong detainees for sale in transplant operations has occurred on a large scale and may be continuing"; and

WHEREAS, an investigative report published in June 2016 by human rights attorney David Matas, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, David Kilgour, and journalist Ethan Gutmann, estimated that China is performing sixty thousand to one hundred thousand (60,000-100,000) transplants per year, as opposed to the ten thousand (10,000) transplants which had been projected by the Chinese government for 2015, amounting to "an industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare systems", as Kilgour described these practices in his speech to the European Parliament in 2016; and

WHEREAS, according to the China Organ Harvest Research Center, China's Liver Transplant Registry System indicated that more than twenty-five percent (25%) of liver transplant cases were emergency transplants for which an organ was found within days or even hours, and that wait time for nonemergency liver transplants were usually quoted in weeks; and

WHEREAS, most patients in other countries have to wait years for a transplant; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese government claims that ninety percent (90%) of China's organ transplant sources come from executed prisoners, but the number of executions has dropped ten percent (10%) annually since 2002 and is far less than the number of transplants taking place; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese government has never acknowledged the sourcing of organs from prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative "qigong" exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and

forbearance, became immensely popular in China in the late 1990s with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners at upwards of seventy million (70,000,000); and

WHEREAS, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, including physical and mental torture, reflecting the party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extralegally in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where torture, abuse, and unnecessary medical exams and blood tests on Falun Gong practitioners are routine; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Freedom House report states that in 2015, Falun Gong practitioners comprised the largest portion of prisoners of conscience in China and faced an elevated risk of dying or being killed in custody; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on 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

WHEREAS, in June 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 343, condemning the systemic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from practitioners of Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to live; and

WHEREAS, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical

confidentiality, but openly monitored; and

WHEREAS, no nation should allow its citizens to go to China for organs until China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, both past and present,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the United States Congress and the Arkansas congressional delegation:

(1) Call upon the government of the People's Republic of China to:

(A) Immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from all prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and

(B) Immediately end the ongoing persecution of Falun Gong and release all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience; and

(2) Support a full and transparent investigation by the United States Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People's Republic of China and call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the State of Arkansas:

(1) Encourage the medical community of Arkansas to engage in educating colleagues and residents of Arkansas about the risks of travel to China for organ transplants to help prevent Arkansas residents from unwittingly becoming involved in murder in the form of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

(2) Agree to take measures to ban the entry of those who have participated in illegal removal of human tissues and organs and seek prosecution of such individuals should they be found in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, the Chair of the United States Committee on Foreign Relations, the Chair of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and all members of the Arkansas congressional delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record.