
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 19 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 31, 2023

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

1 WHEREAS, The organ transplantation system in China does not
2 comply with the World Health Organization's requirement of
3 transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways, and
4 the People's Republic of China has prevented independent or
5 impartial inspection, scrutiny and verification of the
6 transplant system; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The People's Republic of China has not officially
23 repealed provisions implemented in 1984 which permit the
24 harvesting of organs from executed prisoners, therefore the use
25 of organs from executed prisoners remains legal; and

26 WHEREAS, The officially reported transplant numbers in China
27 increased threefold nationwide between 1999 and 2004, parallel
28 to the onset of the persecution of Falun Gong; and

29 WHEREAS, The current co-chairperson of the National Health
30 and Family Planning Commission's Human Organ and Transplant

1 Committee, Dr. Huang Jiefu, claimed that China would stop
2 sourcing organs from executed prisoners on January 1, 2015, yet
3 no official agency of the People's Republic of China has made
4 this declaration nor has Huang's claim been verified by
5 independent researchers; and

6 WHEREAS, Chinese officials have reclassified death row
7 prisoners as "ordinary citizens" with the right to donate their
8 organs, although the use of prisoner organs for transplant is
9 specifically banned by international medical organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, In May 2016, Huang Jiefu announced via state-run
11 media that China will increase the number of transplant centers
12 from 169 to 300 over the next five years; and

13 WHEREAS, The latest research estimates that the People's
14 Republic of China performs far more organ transplants each year
15 than its official figure of 10,000 indicates, and more than any
16 other country in the world, despite having few voluntary donors;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Updated evidence estimates between 30,000 to 100,000
19 transplants occur annually in China without identified organ
20 sources; and

21 WHEREAS, Updated evidence suggests up to 1.5 million Falun
22 Gong practitioners may have been killed for their organs since
23 2001; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2015, the United States Commission on
25 International Religious Freedom's annual report again listed
26 China as a "country of particular concern," due to severe
27 violations of human rights and illegal organ harvesting
28 practices stating, "Imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners are
29 particularly targeted"; and

30 WHEREAS, In 2015 and 2016, the Congressional-Executive

1 Commission on China condemned ongoing unethical forced organ
2 harvesting practices in China; and

3 WHEREAS, In June 2016, the United States House of
4 Representatives passed House Resolution 343 expressing concern
5 over China's organ procurement from nonconsenting prisoners of
6 conscience, including from "large numbers of Falun Gong
7 practitioners and members of other religious and ethnic minority
8 groups"; and

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania call upon the
15 Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end
16 the practice of forced organ harvesting from all prisoners,
17 particularly from Falun Gong prisoners and members of other
18 religious and ethnic minority groups; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania call upon the
20 Government of the People's Republic of China to increase
21 accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system
22 and punish those responsible for abuses; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania call upon the
24 United States Government to initiate a prohibition for each
25 United States teaching hospital to train Chinese doctors in
26 transplant surgery until the People's Republic of China
27 facilitates independent, impartial inspections of its transplant
28 infrastructure; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania suggest that the
30 United States Government enact legislation that will prohibit

1 United States citizens from receiving organs abroad where organ
2 sourcing is not transparent and traceable according to
3 internationally accepted guidelines; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania 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 Senate of Pennsylvania 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 Senate of Pennsylvania request the medical
14 community of this Commonwealth to caution patients against
15 traveling to China for organs; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania encourage the
17 medical community of this Commonwealth to help raise awareness
18 of unethical organ transplant practices in China; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
21 the President of the United States, the Vice President of the
22 United States and the Secretary of State of the United States
23 and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.