

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

H. R. No. 501

Representatives Stinziano, Curtin

RESOLUTION

To express concern over persistent and credible 1
reports of systematic state-sanctioned organ 2
harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of 3
conscience in the People's Republic of China. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, When performed in accordance with ethical standards, 5
the medical discipline of organ transplantation is one of the 6
great achievements of modern medicine. Voluntary and informed 7
consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and 8
international medical organizations state that prisoners, deprived 9
of their freedom, are not in the position to give free consent and 10
that the practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation 11
of ethical guidelines in medicine; and 12

WHEREAS, Surgeons in the People's Republic of China perform 13
more than 10,000 organ transplantations each year. Although 14
China's organ transplantation system continues to evolve, the 15
system does not comply with the World Health Organization's 16
requirement of transparency and traceability in organ procurement 17
pathways. The Chinese government has resisted independent scrutiny 18
of its system; and 19

WHEREAS, In July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched 20
an intensive nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the 21

spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the party's 22
long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society 23
groups. Since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong 24
practitioners have been detained extra-legally and many have been 25
tortured and abused; and 26

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of State's 2011 Country Report 27
on Human Rights for the People's Republic of China stated, in 28
part, "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued 29
to report instances of organ harvesting, particularly from Falun 30
Gong practitioners and Uighurs;" and 31

WHEREAS, The U.N. Committee Against Torture and the U.N. 32
Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the 33
allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners and have 34
called on the Chinese government to increase accountability and 35
transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those 36
responsible for abuses; and 37

WHEREAS, In September 2012, experts testified before the U.S. 38
House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs that 39
American patients travel to the People's Republic of China for 40
organ transplants and that the American medical community 41
continues to cooperate and train with Chinese colleagues, creating 42
a risk that both American patients and medical community may be 43
indirectly aiding abusive practices; now therefore be it 44

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 45
Representatives of the 130th General Assembly of the State of 46
Ohio: 47

-- Call on the government of the People's Republic of China 48
to immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from all 49
prisoners, particularly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience 50
and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; 51

-- Call for a full and transparent investigation by the U.S. 52

Department of State into organ transplant practices in the 53
People's Republic of China, and call for the prosecution of those 54
found to have engaged in unethical practices; 55

-- Recommend that the U.S. Department of State issue a travel 56
warning for American citizens traveling to the People's Republic 57
of China for organ transplants informing them that the organ 58
source for their operation may be a prisoner of conscience; 59

-- Recommend that the U.S. government publicly condemn organ 60
transplantation abuses in China and ban the entry of those who 61
have participated in illegal removal of human tissues and organs 62
and prosecute such individuals if found on U.S. soil; 63

-- Demand an immediate end to the 14-year persecution of the 64
Falun Gong spiritual practice by the Communist Party of China and 65
the immediate release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other 66
prisoners of conscience; and be it further 67

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives send 68
duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the U.S. Secretary 69
of State, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in 70
Washington, D.C., the Speaker and Clerk of the U.S. House of 71
Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of 72
the U.S. Senate, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, 73
and the news media of Ohio. 74