

# **SENATE RESOLUTION No. 39**

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# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Thompson, Doherty, Greenstein, Oroho and Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Denounces organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners in People's Republic of China.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/25/2019)**

1    **A SENATE RESOLUTION** denouncing the practice of organ  
2    harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners  
3    in the People’s Republic of China.  
4  
5    **WHEREAS**, In saving the lives of once hopeless patients, the practice  
6    of organ transplantation is a miracle of modern medicine when  
7    performed in accordance with established ethical standards; and  
8    **WHEREAS**, While the People’s Republic of China (PRC) performs up  
9    to 100,000 organ transplants per year, China does not comply with  
10   the World Health Organization’s organ procurement transparency  
11   requirements; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, As a result, much of China’s organ supply are unaccounted  
13   for, and credible reports indicate that prisoners of conscience are  
14   regularly killed to supply China’s growing organ transplant market;  
15   and  
16   **WHEREAS**, The PRC officially sanctioned the harvesting of organs  
17   from executed prisoners in 1984 after enacting the “Temporary  
18   Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or Organs from the  
19   Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which stated that “the use of the  
20   corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret,  
21   and attention must be paid to avoiding negative repercussions”; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, This policy remained in use for decades, as former Vice-  
23   Minister of Health Huang Jiefu said in 2005 that more than 90  
24   percent of deceased organ donations were obtained from executed  
25   prisoners; and  
26   **WHEREAS**, Some reports also estimated that roughly 50 percent of  
27   organ transplantations performed in China in 2013 were sourced  
28   from executed prisoners; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Voluntary and informed consent is a prerequisite for  
30   ethical organ donation, the international community maintains that  
31   prisoners, many of whom are deprived of their freedoms and  
32   imprisoned for their beliefs, are unable to provide consent for organ  
33   donation; and  
34   **WHEREAS**, Falun Gong practitioners, who comprise the largest  
35   percentage of PRC prisoners of conscience, are believed to be the  
36   primary victims of organ harvesting since the early 2000s; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is a spiritual  
38   practice that engages in meditative exercises and emphasizes the  
39   principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, By offering practitioners a sense of personal fulfillment  
41   and reconnection with traditional Chinese culture after decades of  
42   state-sponsored Maoism, nationalism, and materialism, Falun Gong  
43   quickly became popular, gaining over 70 million followers by  
44   1999; and  
45   **WHEREAS**, Fearing the movement’s growing societal influence, the  
46   PRC President and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary  
47   Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in July 1999 to  
48   eliminate the alleged “evil cult”; and



1 more than 90 percent of China's deceased organ donations in 2005  
2 were obtained from executed prisoners. By 2013, approximately 50  
3 percent of the country's estimated 100,000 annual organ  
4 transplantations were reportedly supplied by executed prisoners.

5 Credible reports indicate that the PRC heavily targeted  
6 imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners for organ harvesting beginning  
7 in the early 2000s. Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is  
8 a spiritual practice that uses meditative exercises and emphasizes  
9 the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By 1999  
10 the movement gained over 70 million practitioners throughout  
11 China. However, fearing Falun Gong's growing societal influence,  
12 the PRC President Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in  
13 July 1999 to eliminate the practice. Since then, Falun Gong  
14 practitioners throughout China were imprisoned, tortured, and  
15 coerced into renouncing their beliefs.

16 Practitioners who refused to recant became prime targets of  
17 organ harvesting. An estimated 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners  
18 were killed for their organs between 2000 and 2008 alone. Ethnic  
19 minorities and political prisoners, most notably Muslim Uyghurs in  
20 Xinjiang Province, were also reportedly targeted for organ  
21 harvesting. According to human rights organizations such as  
22 Freedom House, "there is reason to believe that such abuses  
23 continue" in 2017.

24 Harvesting organs from religious or political prisoners violates  
25 not only ethical medical standards but also the universal rights of  
26 the Chinese people. The State of New Jersey stands in solidarity  
27 with the Falun Gong, its practitioners, and every other victim of  
28 Chinese organ harvesting.