

By: Paxton

S.R. No. 627

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Extensive and credible reports have revealed the  
2 systematic, state-sanctioned harvesting of organs from prisoners  
3 of conscience in the People's Republic of China; and

4           WHEREAS, An article in the *Wall Street Journal* on February 5,  
5 2019, entitled "The Nightmare of Human Organ Harvesting in China"  
6 states that an independent tribunal led by Sir Geoffrey Nice, who  
7 prosecuted Slobodan Milosevic, concluded in December of 2018 that  
8 "in China, forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has  
9 been practiced for a substantial period of time, involving a very  
10 substantial number of victims"; and

11           WHEREAS, These reports describe a large-scale,  
12 state-directed organ transplant system, and Falun Gong  
13 practitioners in custody face the greatest risk of being killed for  
14 their organs; and

15           WHEREAS, Involving meditative exercises and centered on the  
16 values of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, the spiritual  
17 practice of Falun Gong gained many followers in China in the 1990s;  
18 in 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive  
19 nationwide campaign to eradicate the practice, and this persecution  
20 resulted in the detainment of hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong  
21 practitioners in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps,  
22 detention centers, and prisons; and

23           WHEREAS, A 2015 Freedom House report found that Falun Gong  
24 practitioners comprise the largest portion of prisoners of

1 conscience in China and face an elevated risk of dying or being  
2 killed in custody; and

3       WHEREAS, China's organ transplant system abounds with  
4 evidence of misconduct; for example, Chinese custom requires bodies  
5 to be preserved intact after death, making voluntary organ donation  
6 rare; however, China's transplant industry has increased  
7 significantly since 2000; similarly, wait times for emergency liver  
8 transplants in China are quoted in days or hours, and the wait times  
9 for nonemergency liver transplants are quoted in weeks; most  
10 patients in other countries wait years for a liver transplant; and

11       WHEREAS, While refusing to acknowledge the harvesting of  
12 organs from prisoners of conscience, the Chinese government has  
13 acknowledged the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners; and

14       WHEREAS, China's unethical and illegal organ procurement  
15 practices do not comply with the World Health Organization's  
16 guidelines for organ procurement, and those who travel to China for  
17 organ transplants should be aware that organs have been harvested  
18 from prisoners of conscience; and

19       WHEREAS, The Texas Penal Code Title 10, Section [48.02](#),  
20 prohibits the purchase and sale of human organs, but unfortunately  
21 there are no laws protecting those who unwittingly turn to China's  
22 criminal medical tourism to save their lives; now, therefore, be it

23       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 86th Texas Legislature  
24 hereby condemn the systematic, state-sanctioned harvesting of  
25 organs from prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of  
26 China.