

House Resolution 944

By: Representatives Hill of the 3rd, Tarvin of the 2nd, Deffenbaugh of the 1st, McGowan of the 138th, Hogan of the 179th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing concern regarding organ harvesting in the People's Republic of China; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there continue to be persistent and credible reports of systematic, state
4 sanctioned organ harvesting from nonconsenting prisoners of conscience and members of
5 religious and ethnic minority groups in the People's Republic of China, resulting in mass
6 killings of Uyghurs, Tibetans, select Christians, and practitioners of Falun Gong in order to
7 obtain organs for transplants; and

8 WHEREAS, China's organ transplantation system does not comply with the World Health
9 Organization's guiding principles of traceability and transparency in organ procurement, and
10 China's government has resisted independent scrutiny of their system; and

11 WHEREAS, new investigative reports conclude that the Chinese Communist Party has
12 engaged in the mass killings of innocent people to obtain organs for transplants, and China's
13 official figure of 10,000 transplants each year has been understated by an order of magnitude;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in July, 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nation-wide
16 persecution of the popular, spiritual practice of Falun Gong, which is centered on the values
17 of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, extralegally detaining hundreds of thousands
18 of practitioners in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons
19 where torture, abuse, and implausible medical exams and blood tests are routine; and

20 WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on
21 Torture have expressed concerns over allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong
22 prisoners and have called on China's government to increase accountability and transparency
23 in their organ transplantation system and to punish those responsible for abuses; and

24 WHEREAS, the government of China is hereby called upon to end immediately the
25 harvesting of organs from all prisoners, and explicitly from Falun Gong prisoners of
26 conscience and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, as this practice is an
27 egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to live; and

28 WHEREAS, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality but
29 openly monitored, and no nation should allow its citizens to go to China for transplants until
30 China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of past and present prisoners of
31 conscience; and

32 WHEREAS, the medical community in the State of Georgia is encouraged to educate our
33 citizens about the risks of traveling to China for organ transplants so as to prevent them from
34 unwittingly becoming involved in murder in the form of forced organ harvesting from
35 prisoners of conscience.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body urge the People's Republic of China to end the unethical practice
38 of forced harvesting of organs from prisoners, especially from Falun Gong and other
39 prisoners of conscience.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 public and the press.