

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 281
OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT OF OHIO

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas when performed in accordance with ethical standards, the medical discipline of organ transplantation is one of the great achievements of modern medicine;

Whereas despite an announcement by the Government of the People's Republic of China in August, 2013, to create a nationwide voluntary organ transplant system, the country continues to systematically rely on organs of executed prisoners;

Whereas in 2012, official government statistics show that 64 percent of organ transplants in China came from executed prisoners;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to deny reports that many organs are taken without the consent of prisoners yet at the same time prevents independent verification of its transplant system;

Whereas the China Organ Transplant Committee, the official organization overseeing transplants, has yet to implement a timeline on ending the practice of performing transplants with organs harvested from executed prisoners;

Whereas the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's require-

ment of transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways;

Whereas voluntary and informed consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and international medical organizations state that prisoners, deprived of their freedom, are not in the position to give free consent and that the practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine;

Whereas the Department of State Country Report on Human Rights for China for 2012 stated, “Advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ harvesting from prisoners”;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China implemented regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners;

Whereas in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified before the House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human Rights that hospitals worked in collusion with state security agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without written consent of the organ donors, and that these transplants were a lucrative source of income;

Whereas Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative “qigong” exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, became immensely popular in the 1990s;

Whereas in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting

the party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups;

Whereas since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extra-legally in reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where torture and abuse are routine;

Whereas in many detention facilities and labor camps, Falun Gong prisoners of conscience comprise the majority of the population, and have been said to receive the longest sentences and the worst treatment;

Whereas in 2006, Canadian researchers David Matas, human rights attorney, and David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, conducted an independent investigation into allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, concluded that reports of Falun Gong practitioners being killed for their organs was highly probable;

Whereas researcher and journalist Ethan Gutmann estimates that approximately 65,000 Falun Gong adherents may have been killed for their organs from 2000 to 2008, and that a number of other religious and ethnic minorities may also have been targeted;

Whereas Gutmann published findings that Chinese security agencies began harvesting organs from members of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority group in the 1990s, including from Uyghur political prisoners;

Whereas the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability

and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

Whereas the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) calls on the Government of the People’s Re-
2 public of China to immediately end the practice of
3 organ harvesting from all prisoners;

4 (2) demands an immediate end to the 14-year
5 persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual practice by
6 the Communist Party of China, and the immediate
7 release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other
8 prisoners of conscience; and

9 (3) encourages the United States medical com-
10 munity to help raise awareness of unethical organ
11 transplant practices in China.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience, in the People’s Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners,

and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups.”.

