



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DAVID L. BULOVA
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THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS (CHAIR)
EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Religious Persecution and Forced Organ Harvesting in the People's Republic of China

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This July marks 21 years since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched an intensive, nation-wide persecution to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong. In addition to mental and physical torture, the immoral practice of non-consenting organ harvesting by the CCP has also been documented. Today, the undersigned members of the Virginia General Assembly write to request forceful, and sustained action by the United States to protect religious liberty and to bring an end to this inhumane practice.

We recognize and appreciate the bi-partisan efforts already taken to raise awareness of this tragedy, including House Resolution 343 (2016, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen) and Senate Resolution 274 (2019, Sen. Menendez). These resolutions detail in stark terms the horror being inflicted on practitioners of Falun Gong and other religious and ethnic minority groups in China. We also appreciate your statements that religious freedom is a top priority for the Administration and that the United States "will not stand idly by while abusers of this first American freedom persecute, discriminate against, and revile people because of their beliefs."¹

While the resolutions provide the history of persecution and cite investigations by well-respected individuals and organizations, they cannot compare to the powerful, gut-wrenching stories directly from victim's families and survivors. These are just a few excerpts from a survivor now living in Fairfax, Virginia: "Left in death bed with four limbs tied." "Handcuffed and hung in painful position." "Violently force-fed." "High-voltage electric shock." "Not allowed to sleep for three days." We cannot even imagine having to endure this torture. And fortunately, from the safety of our own nation, we do not have to. But our position affords us with an even greater responsibility to act.

¹ Secretary Pompeo Tweet, June 10, 2020.

In addition, we ask that the Department of State take action here at home to help educate Americans about the practice of non-consensual organ harvesting in China. Organ transplants are a marvel of science and can be a selfless gesture that gives the gift of life. However, organ transplants should never be conducted under force or duress. We are concerned that patients from the United States who go to China for organ transplants do not know that the organs they may receive are from political prisoners. Increasing our own education efforts will help to reduce the demand for this immoral practice.

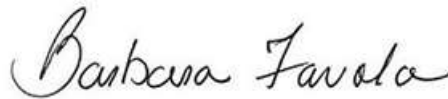
In China, people are risking their lives to raise awareness of the truth. We are writing in solidarity with the survivors and those who can no longer speak for themselves. We ask for your leadership, and the considerable leverage of the United States, to ensure that next year we are not observing 22 years of persecution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David L. Bulova
37th House District



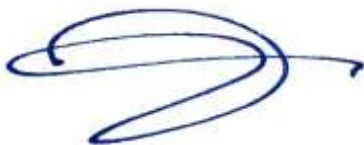
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31st Senate District



Kaye Kory
38th House District



John J. Bell
13th Senate District



Dawn M. Adams
68th House District



Jennifer B. Boysko
33rd Senate District



Leslie (Les) R. Adams
16th House District



R. Creigh Deeds
25th Senate District



Lashrecse D. Aird
63rd House District



Siobhan S. Dunnavant
12th Senate District



John G. Avoli
20th House District



Ghazala F. Hashmi
10th Senate District



Hala S. Ayala
51st House District



David W. Marsden
37th Senate District



Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.
100th House District



Senator Joseph D. Morrissey
16th Senate District



Ronnie Campbell
24th House District



Mark J. Peake
22nd Senate District



Mark L. Cole
88th House District



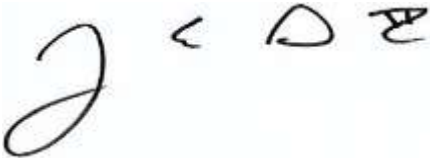
J. Chapman Petersen
34th Senate District



Karrie K. Delaney
67th House District



Scott A. Surovell
36th Senate District



James E. Edmunds, II
60th House District



Jen A. Kiggans
7th Senate District



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36th House District



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30th House District



Sam Rasoul
11th House District



Hyland F. (Buddy) Fowler
55th House District



Mark D. Sickles
43rd House District



Gwendolyn W. (Wendy) Gooditis
10th House District



Suhas Subramanyam
87th House District



Elizabeth R. Guzman
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17th House District



Schuyler T. Van Valkenburg
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Daniel I. Helmer
40th House District



Wendell S. Walker
23rd House District



David A. LaRock
33rd House District



Lee R. Ware
65th House District



Delores L. McQuinn
70th House District



Vivian E. Watts
39th House District



John J. McGuire, III
56th House District



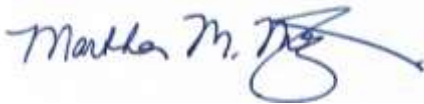
Michael J. Webert
18th House District



Jason S. Miyares
82nd House District



Rodney T. Willett
73rd House District



Martha M. Mugler
91st House District



Tony O. Wilt
26th House District



Michael P. Mullin
93rd House District

Copies to:

Honorable Tim Kaine, U.S. Senator
Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senator
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Honorable Donald McEachin, Congressman, 4th District
Honorable Denver Riggleman, Congressman, 5th District
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Honorable Abigail Spanberger, Congresswoman, 7th District
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