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JOHN W. FOUST
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Joint Board Matter
Chairman McKay and Supervisors Foust, Walkinshaw, Storck,
Herrity and Palchik

October 5, 2021

Resolution Condemning Organ Harvesting from People
of Conscience in the People's Republic of China

BACKGROUND: On June 13, 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 343, condemning the practice of state-sanctioned forced organ harvesting in the People's Republic of China from prisoners of conscience, primarily practitioners of the Chinese spiritual practice of Falun Gong, but also of other religious and ethnic minority groups.

In December 2018, the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting of Prisoners of Conscience in China, chaired by the eminent British barrister and professor, Sir Geoffrey Nice who was the prosecutor of Slobodan Milosevic at the Hague, issued an interim judgment that stated: "The Tribunal's members are all certain-unanimously, and sure beyond reasonable doubt-that in China forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practiced for a substantial period of time involving a very substantial number of victims."

In June 2021, a group of United Nations independent experts expressed their concerns about allegations of organ harvesting carried out on minority groups detained in China, including Falun Gong practitioners, as well as Uyghurs, Tibetans, Muslims, and Christians.

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China have repeatedly denied reports that many organs are taken without the consent of prisoners, but they prevent independent verification of the transplant system.

On July 16, 2019, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Board Matter that was consistent with the findings and conclusions of House Resolution 363 and that expressed the Board's deep concerns about these egregious violations of the fundamental right to life. Recently, our Board has been asked by local practitioners of Falun Gong to adopt a resolution that further supports their efforts to educate and inform county residents about allegations of forced organ harvesting in the People's Republic of China.

Motion: Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we move that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution to condemn the harvesting of organs from prisoners of conscience in China and to direct staff to conduct efforts to inform the medical community and residents of Fairfax County regarding concerns about travel to China for organ transplants.