



HR0286

LRB102 18413 ECR 26354 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On May 3, 2021, thousands of people across the country celebrated World Falun Dafa Day; this marks the second anniversary of the celebration of one of the world's most popular meditation and cultivation practices; and

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WHEREAS, Falun Dafa, also referred to as Falun Gong, is a peaceful spiritual practice rooted in the Buddhist tradition; it consists of moral teachings, a meditation, and four gentle exercises that are a truly unique and a highly effective way to improve health and energy levels; it is always taught free of charge by volunteers and can be practiced individually or in groups; and

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WHEREAS, At the core of Falun Dafa are the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance; practitioners of Falun Dafa take these fundamental values to be a guide for daily life; and

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WHEREAS, People who practice Falun Dafa often find it to be life-changing; many experience dramatic health benefits as well as newfound energy, mental clarity, stress relief, and spiritual awareness; and

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WHEREAS, Falun Dafa was first taught in China in 1992 by Li

1 Hongzhi; he is a five time Nobel Peace Prize nominee and was  
2 nominated by the European Parliament for the Sakharov Prize  
3 for Freedom of Thought; he is also the recipient of Freedom  
4 House's International Religious Freedom Award; and

5 WHEREAS, Li Hongzhi's teachings spread quickly through  
6 word-of-mouth across China; by 1999, according to China's  
7 official estimates, 70 million to 100 million people were  
8 studying Falun Dafa; this amounted to approximately 1 in every  
9 13 people in China; and

10 WHEREAS, Falun Dafa is now practiced in over 90 countries,  
11 and its teachings have been translated into over 40 languages;  
12 over one hundred million people worldwide have become  
13 healthier, happier, and more altruistic through their practice  
14 of Falun Dafa; and

15 WHEREAS, Although widely popular and openly celebrated by  
16 the Chinese government throughout the 1990s, China's then  
17 president Jiang Zemin launched a violent campaign against  
18 Falun Dafa in 1999; he feared Falun Dafa's exploding  
19 popularity and felt its emphasis on moral living and  
20 traditional Chinese culture were a threat to the atheist,  
21 communist regime; and

22 WHEREAS, A systematic campaign of abductions, torture, and

1 death targeting tens of millions of Falun Dafa practitioners  
2 was thus launched; over the past 20 years, several million  
3 people have been detained, hundreds of thousands have been  
4 tortured, thousand have been confirmed dead with the true  
5 number of deceased probably being much higher, and tens of  
6 thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands, have been killed  
7 for their vital organs to fuel a booming organ transplantation  
8 business in China; and

9 WHEREAS, These atrocities have largely been hidden from  
10 view because for years the Chinese Communist Party has  
11 classified any information about human rights abuses against  
12 people who practice Falun Dafa as "state secrets"; and

13 WHEREAS, As the persecution continues, Falun Dafa  
14 practitioners have been consistent in refusing to adopt  
15 violence as an option; they instead focus on using every  
16 available peaceful avenue to have their voices heard; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, across China, there are 200,000 or more  
18 underground printing houses run by Falun Dafa practitioners;  
19 from their living rooms, they have established secure internet  
20 connections, accessed websites outside China by using proxy  
21 servers, downloaded censored literature on the persecution of  
22 Falun Dafa, and produced homemade leaflets; others volunteer  
23 distribute the literature, usually by night; and

1           WHEREAS, Collectively, this resistance movement, composed  
2 of bold individual acts in spite of great personal risks,  
3 constitutes what is probably today's largest nonviolent  
4 underground movement in the world; and

5           WHEREAS, Falun Dafa was first introduced to Illinois in  
6 the mid 1990s; since then, volunteers have held free  
7 workshops, teaching programs, seminars, and group exercises  
8 throughout the state; and

9           WHEREAS, Falun Dafa practitioners actively participate in  
10 community events such as July 4th parades, Thanksgiving  
11 parades, Labor Day parades, summer festivals, and farmer's  
12 markets; and

13           WHEREAS, Falun Dafa practitioners have invited the world  
14 renowned Shen Yun Performing Arts Company to Illinois to  
15 entertain and to share the precious traditional culture and  
16 values of truthfulness, compassion, forbearance, and loyalty;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, It is important for the State of Illinois to  
19 express clear and strong support for any person or group of  
20 people who are being unjustly persecuted for their beliefs;  
21 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we declare the week of May 10 through May 16, 2021 as Falun  
4 Dafa Week in the State of Illinois.