

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 2018

Dear Followers of Falun Gong:

As a fellow member of a religious minority, I would like to express my support in your fight against the oppression inflicted upon you by the Communist government in China. The ability to live out one's chosen religion or spiritual practice is a fundamental right and should not be infringed upon by those who may have differing opinions. The United States' Founding Fathers recognized the importance of religious freedom through their own experiences and those of their ancestors, which is why they enshrined this right in the the United States Constitution.

Since being elected to serve in the U.S. Senate, it has been a priority of mine to uphold this protection provided by the Constitution in our own country, and to encourage other countries around the world to follow this example. I do not believe that a country can truly flourish and prosper without defending this essential right. When I meet with foreign leaders from around the globe, I frequently reiterate and stress this point to them. In this vein, as the global political atmosphere continues to change, it is of the utmost importance that we here in Washington do not become complacent or hesitate to speak out and, where appropriate, act when we have the ability to advance the religious liberties of all people.

In light of this fundamental human right, it is lamentable that in 1999 the Chinese government banned your spiritual practice of Falun Gong. I also find it abhorrent that practitioners of Falun Gong have been subject to sexual abuse, torture, unnecessary medical tests, and organ harvesting while in detention. This practice – carried out either by the Chinese government or with its consent in an attempt to draw out a denouement of faith – has no place in the 21st century.

I applaud the efforts of each of you who continue to raise awareness of the plight of the practitioners of Falun Gong, and I condemn the actions of the Chinese government. No person should have to fear repercussions for the faith they choose to practice, and we join in voicing our support for your efforts to protect the innocents being persecuted. As you rally at the United States Capitol and across Washington, DC, know that I am with you.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator