

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 21, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 42

Introduced by Assembly Member—Figueroa Members
Figueroa, Alby, Alpert, Archie-Hudson, Baca, Baldwin,
Boland, Bordonaro, Bowen, Bowler, Valerie Brown, Brulte,
Burton, Bustamante, Campbell, Cannella, Conroy, Cortese,
Cunneen, Davis, Ducheny, Frusetta, Gallegos, Goldsmith,
Granlund, Hannigan, Harvey, Hawkins, Hoge, House,
Isenberg, Knowles, Knox, Kuehl, Machado, Margett,
Martinez, Mazzoni, McDonald, McPherson, Miller,
Morrissey, Morrow, Kevin Murray, Willard Murray,
Napolitano, Olberg, Poochigian, Pringle, Rainey, Setencich,
Sher, Speier, Sweeney, Takasugi, Thompson, Tucker,
Villaraigosa, and Woods

(Principal coauthor: Senator Lockyer)

July 20, 1995

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 42—Relative to human rights.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 42, as amended, Figueroa. Human rights: China: Harry Wu.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to continue to use all diplomatic avenues available to press the Chinese government for the safe and speedy return of Harry Wu.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Harry Wu, a United States citizen and
2 resident of Milpitas, California, is an outspoken critic of
3 the Chinese penal system; and

4 WHEREAS, As a young man, Harry Wu was arrested by
5 the Chinese Communist authorities after criticizing the
6 Soviet Union's 1956 invasion of Hungary, and being
7 labeled a "counterrevolutionary rightist," and spent 19
8 years as a political prisoner in a labor reform camp; and

9 WHEREAS, Harry Wu came to the United States in
10 1985 as a visiting scholar at the University of California,
11 Berkeley, in the Civil Engineering Department; and

12 WHEREAS, Harry Wu is currently a research fellow at
13 the Hoover Institution on War and Peace at Stanford
14 University; and

15 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has completed research and
16 published articles and books reflecting the human rights
17 abuses in China, including "Laogai—The Chinese Gulag"
18 and "Bitter Winds: A Memoir of My Years in China's
19 Gulag"; and

20 WHEREAS, Harry Wu is the founder and executive
21 director of the Laogai Foundation, founded to study
22 China's labor camps; and

23 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has worked diligently and
24 risked his freedom to document the human rights abuses
25 and conditions in Chinese gulags, twice returning to
26 China in 1991 to secretly videotape conditions in the
27 Chinese gulag, and has provided documentation on how
28 Chinese officials disguise prison-made products so that
29 American and other Western businesses would not be
30 reluctant to buy them; and

31 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has testified numerous times on
32 Capitol Hill regarding human rights abuses, and most
33 recently testified before the Senate Foreign Relations
34 Committee on the illegal human organ trade that occurs
35 within China's prison camps; and

36 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has gained international
37 attention for his crusade against the Chinese system of
38 prison labor camps and has been instrumental in
39 providing documentary information that has been
40 broadcast in the United States and Great Britain; and



1 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has been nominated for the
2 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of human rights
3 in China; and

4 WHEREAS, Harry Wu has been detained in China
5 since June 19, 1995; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
7 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature hereby
8 memorializes the President and Congress of the United
9 States to continue to use all diplomatic avenues available
10 to press the Chinese government for the safe and speedy
11 return of Harry Wu; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
13 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
14 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
16 Representative from California in the Congress of the
17 United States.

