

## Assembly Joint Resolution No. 42

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 65

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

[Filed with Secretary of State July 27, 1995.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 42, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature hereby memorializes 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; and be it further

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

