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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

July 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Falun Dafa Association of New Jersey,

I would like to extend greetings to everyone participating in today's rally in support of Falun Gong and Falun Dafa. I regret that I cannot be there in person to show solidarity with your cause.

The Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious communities and all those who seek to freely assemble and express themselves should end immediately. The diversity of opinion and religious practice has never been the weakness of an honorable nation. The Chinese Communist Party's systematic oppression of its people and the people of Hong Kong are a stain on our world causing a deep pain in us all.

Growing up in Paterson, as a grandson of Italian immigrants, I learned from an early age that our community finds strength in its diversity. We are lucky to live in a state and a nation that celebrates the different religions, ethnicities, and cultural practices of its people. Unfortunately, as you all know firsthand, not everyone around the world is able to enjoy this same freedom. No person should face persecution for their sincere religious beliefs, especially when those beliefs are practiced peacefully.

Your advocacy and the awareness you are raising in protest of the profound discrimination of the Chinese Communist Party is honorable. I hope that your collective voices are successful, and that the rally is met with appreciation and understanding by the public. Again, I wish you well in your efforts today giving a voice to all the followers of Falun Gong around the world who have been victims of religious oppression.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell Jr

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress