

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

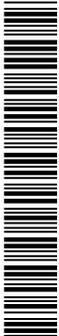
RESOLUTION

Expressing the sincerest condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the 42 people, including 37 children, killed in the March 6, 2001, explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in the Jianxi province of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

Whereas on March 6, 2001, an explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in the Jianxi province of the People's Republic of China's killed at least 42 people, including 37 children;

Whereas the children, all between the ages of 9 and 11, were being forced by elementary school officials to manufacture fireworks when this tragedy occurred;

Whereas the parents of the deceased children report that the mandatory labor, which involved mounting fuses and det-



onators into large firecrackers, had been a daily practice at the school for years;

Whereas this systematic exploitation of children in the elementary school was not only known about but actually organized by individuals holding official responsibilities with the local Chinese Government;

Whereas this practice is a grave violation of the rights of children under the International Labor Organization’s Conventions 138 and 182, as well as Convention 29 on Forced Labor; and

Whereas Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji has taken the important step of acknowledging these violations of internationally recognized labor standards; Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its sincerest condolences to the
3 families of the 42 people killed in the March 6,
4 2001, explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in
5 the Jianxi province of the People’s Republic of
6 China, including to the parents and families of the
7 37 young children who lost their lives as a result of
8 this dangerous and forced child labor;

9 (2) expresses its gratitude to the Chinese and
10 international journalists who reported the true cause
11 of the explosion in response to the Chinese Com-
12 munist Party’s original attempts to put forward an
13 “authorized”, but false, version of the events; and



1 (3) expresses its support for international trade
2 agreements and policies that will enforce the Inter-
3 national Labor Organization's core labor standards,
4 which include prohibition of child labor and forced
5 labor.

