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July 18, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Charlie Gard and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear Mr. President:

By way of introduction, the Home School Legal Defense Association is a national organization whose mission is to protect the constitutional right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. We represent the interests of hundreds of thousands of homeschooling families across the country.

Homeschoolers were among the millions of Americans grateful for your comments in support of Charlie Gard and his parents' valiant effort to save his life in the United Kingdom. We believe that life is precious and that parents, not the government, know best how to protect and care for their children.

As defenders of the right of parents to raise their children, the Charlie Gard situation highlights the stark difference between our national values and those of internationalists who believe that government bureaucrats and the courts should decide how children should be raised, and even whether a life is worth living.

In 1995, the Clinton Administration signed onto the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, the same international treaty which elevates government bureaucrats over parents in deciding what is in a child's "best interests." It is this same standard that has enabled bureaucrats and courts in the United Kingdom to overrule the wishes of Charlie Gard's own parents.

HSLDA believes that the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child is a grave threat to our nation's sovereignty, to parental rights, and to homeschool freedom.

H O M E S C H O O L L E G A L D E F E N S E A S S O C I A T I O N

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Letter to The President of the United States of America

7/21/2017

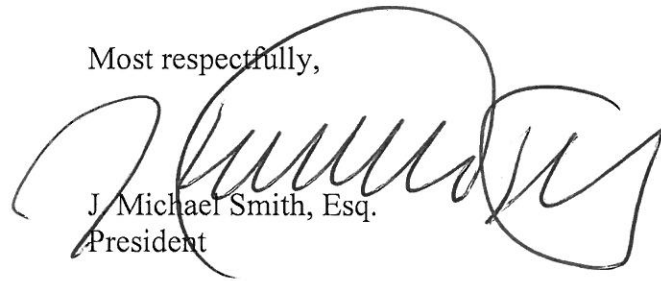
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Under the Supremacy Clause found in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, treaties ratified by the U.S. Senate become “the Supreme law of the land.” We fear that if the U.S. Senate ever ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, it would only be a matter of time before cases like Charlie Gard’s in the United Kingdom were common-place on our own shores.

We respectfully urge you to withdraw the United States as a signatory of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 52 of the treaty states: “A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation becomes effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.”

Withdrawing the United States from the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child would ensure that no family in our nation would ever need to fear going through the ordeal that Charlie Gard and his family are currently undergoing.

Most respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Michael Smith'.

J. Michael Smith, Esq.
President

ENCLOSURE

cc The Honorable Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States
 The Honorable Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State
 The Honorable Nikki Haley, Ambassador to the United Nations
 The Honorable Bob Corker, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 The Honorable Ben Cardin, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations
 Committee