
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Koster, Mulliken, Lambert, Sherstad, Sterk,
Backlund, Smith, Boldt, McMorris, Johnson and Bush

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, In November 1989, the United Nations adopted the
9 "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (the Convention); and

10 WHEREAS, In February 1995, the United States Permanent
11 Representative to the United Nations signed the Convention, with the
12 intent that the President submit it to the United States Senate for
13 ratification; and

14 WHEREAS, The Convention inappropriately and unmistakably infringes
15 upon parental rights in that it divests from parents the ability to
16 decide what health care options are in the best interest of their
17 children; and

18 WHEREAS, The Convention grants to children the authority to
19 independently make all medical decisions without parental consent and
20 provides that the cost of care is to be borne by the government; and

1 WHEREAS, The Convention hinders parents' ability to educate their
2 children in religious matters and would replace parental best judgment
3 with the child's judgment; and

4 WHEREAS, The Convention grants to civil service bureaucrats the
5 authority to impose upon parents standards regarding children's
6 physical, mental, moral, spiritual, and social development; and

7 WHEREAS, The Convention violates parents' fundamental rights to
8 direct the upbringing of their children, by vesting in children an
9 exclusive right of privacy that may be exercised against all others,
10 including parents; and

11 WHEREAS, The Convention improperly intrudes into the sphere of
12 parental authority by creating a civil service bureaucracy for
13 identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and
14 prosecution of any individual, including parents, who allegedly violate
15 the "rights" bestowed by the Convention;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully and fervently pray
17 that Senate adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child be
18 denied.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
21 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
22 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
23 State of Washington.

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