

# the EDUCATOR

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***“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States, where men were free.”***

–President Ronald Reagan

## **A PERFECT STORM**

*An Editorial*

Where were you when the United States Supreme Court declared that women have the right to kill their preborn children? In 1973, I was in college finishing my nursing degree. I missed the whole thing. Today, nagging questions still haunt me. Where was the church? Was there no public outcry? Didn’t anybody see it coming? Now 35 years later, we are still fighting to reverse a Supreme Court decision and change abortion laws. In the meantime, 48 million children have lost their lives.

Today, on the horizon, looms a ‘perfect storm’. We see it coming. The threat of liberal judges and international law will literally demolish the rights we hold so dear. Today an increasing number of Supreme Court Justices refuse to recognize parental rights as fundamental. The growing use of international law in American courts offers a frightening glimpse into the future. If the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child is ratified; all states laws which recognize the right to homeschool will be superseded by international law if homeschooling is perceived as not in the “best interest of the child.”

In the U.S. Constitution, parental rights are not enumerated but implied. Even the most conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia holds that parental rights are not judicially enforceable until there is a specific parental rights provision in the Constitution. The Parental Rights Amendment is the only way to secure the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

Will you join me in an effort to protect our children and our children’s children by demanding a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? It will take time and effort; for most people it will simply be signing a petition and periodically making phone calls. We cannot depend on having a friend in the White House or Governor’s Mansion.

People of faith need to remember Nehemiah, a man who was so concerned with the depravity of his nation that he put aside his personal life and volunteered to rebuild his country physically as well as spiritually.

## **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

On February 17, 1995 the United States Ambassador to the United Nations signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Disguised as a treaty to provide children with basic human rights; this treaty would undermine the family by granting children a list of radical “rights” that would be enforced against parents. The new fundamental rights granted to children include “the right to privacy,” “the right to freedom of thought and association,” and “the right to freedom of expression.” Under the terms of this treaty, parents would be denied the right to direct the upbringing of their children and be reduced to the role of advisors.

In order to take effect, the United States Senate must ratify this treaty by a 2/3 majority and it must be signed by the President. If that happens, it will become the law of the land along with the Constitution and existing federal law. Under Article 6, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, the terms of treaties supersede any existing state or local laws. If ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child would become the defining document on the treatment of children in the United States.

While the rights defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child appear noble, this treaty is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. The UNCRC provides for the government to define what is in the “best interest of the child” supplanting the traditional presumption in favor of parents with a new presumption in favor of the state. The state will decide what is best for children not parents.

To follow are a few of the new “rights of the child” listed in the 54 Articles of the UNCRC:

### **Article 13**

1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression, this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child’s choice.
2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
  - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
  - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.

***Under the terms of this article, children can have access to anything that is legal.***

### **Article 14**

1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardian, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.
3. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

***Under the terms of this article, children would have a legal right to object to all religious training. Parents may advise, but not limit a child’s choice of religion.***

continued on next page

## Article 15

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

***Under the terms of this article, children may go anywhere they want with anyone they choose so long as it is legal.***

## Article 16

1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.
2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

***Under the terms of this article, children would have the right to purchase contraceptives and obtain an abortion without parental notice.***

The treaty uses abortion euphemisms such as “her right of access to health care services,” “preventative health care,” “family planning education and services,” “reproductive health services,” and “privacy.”

An analysis of this treaty was published by the American Bar Association in a book entitled, *Children’s Rights in America: U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child Compared with*

*United States Law.* The authors, Cynthia Price Cohen and Howard Davidson, explain that ratification of this treaty will mandate that the U.S. Department of Education take control of the nation’s educational system and implement policy as dictated by the United Nations. **The authors recognize that private schools and home schools which teach values contrary to the specifications of the treaty would have to come into compliance.** They specifically criticized the curriculum used by the Accelerated Christian Education and Bethany Baptist Academy in Illinois as being at odds with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To date, only the United States and Somalia have not ratified this treaty. Clearly, ratification of the Convention would result in a drastic change in the relationship between children, their parents and the state. Such a change would be disastrous to parents choosing to rear children with traditional American values.

## The Solution

A Parental Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution would permanently secure the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children. Therefore, it is imperative that public pressure be brought to bear upon the members of the United States Congress. Please join the Parental Rights Organization founded by Michael Farris, the chairman of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association. Visit [www.parentalrights.org](http://www.parentalrights.org) or call 540-751-1200 for more details.

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## How to Lobby for the Parental Rights Amendment

**Be informed.** Keep posted on the latest legislative developments by signing up for alerts at the Home School Legal Defense Association. [www.hsllda.org/elert/](http://www.hsllda.org/elert/) You don’t have to be a member to sign up and there is no fee charged. World Net Daily is a free online news source that does an excellent job informing Christians about issues that affect their religious freedoms. [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com)

**Pray** that God will raise up righteous men and women to rule our nation. Pray that God will intercede in a mighty way to protect our religious freedoms.

**Sign** an online petition in support of the Parental Right Amendment at [parentalrights.org](http://parentalrights.org)

Find out who are your elected officials by visiting [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org)

**Commit** to call or email your congressman and ask him to contact Congressman Pete Hoekstra from Michigan and become a cosponsor of the PRA.

**Commit** to recruit 10 people to call or write their congressmen. Volunteer to organize your homeschooling support group.

**Pray** that your recruits will volunteer to enlist 10 more people to contact their congressmen.

**Visit** your congressman with 5 friends in order to share your concerns about the threat to parental rights. Now is the perfect time to present incumbents and candidates with your concerns; every congressman is running for re-election.

Homeschoolers hold the key to securing parental rights and religious freedoms for generations to come. Experts estimate that between 500,000 and 2,000,000 children are home-schooled in the United States. (In 2005, the Pennsylvania the Department of Education listed 23,287 students enrolled in Pennsylvania as homeschoolers.) If the average homeschool family has 5 children, this would yield between 100,000 and 400,000 homeschool families. If each of these families would send a letter or make a phone call and secure 10 other people to send a letters or make phone calls, that would yield between 1 to 4 million letters and or phone calls.

## Remember H.R.6

Grassroots lobbyists still remember the tidal wave of phone calls and visits homeschoolers initiated in 1994 when the US Congress proposed legislation (H.R.6) containing a provision mandating that all of America’s teachers – public, private and

home schooled – be certified. Within hours of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association notifying homeschooling leaders across the nation, Capital Hill switchboards were jammed as tens of thousands of calls flooded the congressional offices. Homeschoolers enlisted the help of their friends and relatives. Across America, homeschoolers called radio stations, faxed letters and distributed literature on the “Home School/Private School Freedom Amendment” written by Mike Farris, founder of the HSLDA and sponsored by Congressman Dick Armey. Homeschoolers confronted congressmen in town hall meetings and local offices. Over an eight day period, Congress received over one million phone calls. On the eighth day, homeschoolers watched a debate on the floor of the US House of Representatives which resulted in a 374 – 53 victory for the “Home School/ Private School Freedom Amendment” to H.R.6. Who deserves credit for this victory? Credit is due to the one million plus callers who were willing to act and not sit idly by as Congress obliterated their home schooling freedoms. Credit is due to Congressman Dick Armey. Most importantly, credit goes to God Almighty who answered the prayers of His people and miraculously superintended every detail of this battle to bring a victory for homeschoolers. All the effort and best laid plans would have been for naught apart from His sovereign grace.

**Psalm 20:6-7** *Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.* “The Battle of H.R.6” [http://www.hsllda.org/about/history/battle\\_hr6.asp](http://www.hsllda.org/about/history/battle_hr6.asp)

## It’s the Battle of Our Lifetime

The battle for parental rights will be the fight of our lifetime. The process of amending the Constitution is both long and challenging. The immediate goal is to have a substantial number of Congressional co-sponsors before the Parental Right Amendment is introduced. Ultimately the amendment requires final approval 2/3 of both the House and Senate. Once passed by Congress, the amendment must then be ratified by 3/4 of the states. At every level of the amendment process, there will be a need for another round of phone calls and letters. Fervent prayer and organization will be the key to success. Visit the Parental Rights Organization and sign an online petition in support of the Parental Rights Amendment at [parentalrights.org](http://parentalrights.org)

## Petition for the Parental Rights Amendment

As Citizen Co-Sponsors of the Parental Rights Amendment, we recognize that parents possess a fundamental right to lovingly guide and direct the upbringing and education of their children. As the Supreme Court has proclaimed, the custody, care, and nurture of the child reside first in the parents.”

We call attention to the tragic reality that this right is now being watered down by judges in our state and federal courts, and eroded by international laws created beyond our borders and without our consent.

We believe that no child should be a victim of abuse or neglect. We hold that the government should not seek to intrude upon the child-parent relationship, nor deprive a child of his or her parents unless absolutely necessary. We draw attention to the current state of affairs in which decisions affecting the welfare and happiness of children are too often made on the basis of expediency, not necessity, with great harm resulting toward the child and the whole family.

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## California Exodus

In the fall of 2007, California pastors called for a mass exodus of California’s public schools after Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a radical sex gender education program that uses the public school system to indoctrinate children.

Beginning as early as pre-kindergarten, under the guise of “nondiscrimination,” every California public school is required to teach children that homosexuality and bisexual lifestyles are normal and acceptable. Clause 210.7 of SB 777 defines ‘gender’ as including a person’s gender identity and gender related appearance and behavior whether or not stereo-typically associated with the person’s assigned sex at birth.” Children are being taught that gender is a matter of personal choice. Under the “nondiscrimination” provisions of the new legislation, if a boy were to decide to adopt the gender identity of a “girl,” his birth sex could not be used to prevent him from using the girl’s locker rooms or restrooms.

The law requires public schools to accept homosexual, bisexual and transsexual teachers and a positive portrayal of alternative life styles. The law also bans any school texts, events or class activities that demonstrate bias against those

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## Perfect Storm Hits California Parents

California parents didn’t see it coming on February 8, 2008 when the Second District Court of Appeal ruled, “Parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children. Parents who fail to comply [with school enrollment laws] may be subject to a criminal complaint against them, found guilty of an infraction and subject to imposition of fines or an order to complete a parent education and counseling program.” In a 3 to 0 opinion the appellate court wrote that California law requires parents to send their children to full-time public or private schools or have them taught by credentialed tutors at home.

California is one of 27 states that does not have a law which specifically addresses homeschooling. Under the state education code, students must be enrolled in a public or private school or can be taught at home by a credentialed tutor. Some California parents comply with this statute by coming under the umbrella of a private or charter school. Many homeschooling families avoid truancy laws by registering with the state as a private school and then enrolling only their children.

An official opinion written by Justice H. Walter Croskey of California’s Second District Court of Appeal stated “a primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the state and nation as a means of protecting public welfare.”

The ruling was applauded by the director of the state’s largest teachers union. Lloyd Porter stated, “We are happy. We always think students should be taught by credentialed teachers, no matter what the setting.”

## PROPOSED TEXT OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Therefore, we call upon Congress to pass a constitutional amendment which will secure the vital liberty of parents to raise their children, both for ourselves and for future generations of American families.

### SECTION 1

The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right.

### SECTION 2

Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.

### SECTION 3

No treaty nor any source of international law may be employed to supersede, modify, interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article.

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who have chosen alternative sexual life styles. There are no similar protections for students with traditional or conservative lifestyles and beliefs. Offenders will face the wrath of the Department of Education, up to and including lawsuits.

According to Meredith Turney, a legislative liaison for the Capitol Resource Institute, “SB 777 will result in reverse discrimination against students with religious and traditional values. The terms ‘mom and dad’ or ‘husband and wife’ could promote discrimination against homosexuals if a same sex-couple is not also featured.”

Randy Thomasson, chief of the Campaign for Children and Families, called for the abandonment of public schools and told World Net Daily “private schools and homeschools will be the only sanctuaries left for California parents who love their children and want to protect their sexual innocence.”

“Mom, Dad, Banned; Now 600,000 Students Could Go.” Feb. 7, 2008 [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com)

Visit [www.californiaexodus.org](http://www.californiaexodus.org) click **visit a classroom** to view a video presentation of Gay Pride Day in a Massachusetts elementary school. Notice how the children’s attitudes and values are subtly manipulated.

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The Long family’s legal battle didn’t start out as a test case on the validity of homeschooling. It was a child welfare case. A juvenile court judge looking into one child’s complaint of mistreatment by their father, Philip Long, found that the children were being poorly educated but refused to order two of the children, ages 7 and 9 to be enrolled in a full-time school. He said parents in California have a right to educate their children at home. The appeals court told the juvenile court judge to require the parents to comply with the law by enrolling their children in a school, but excluded the Sunland Christian School, the umbrella school in which the Long children were already enrolled was excluded because that institution “participated” in the deprivation of the children’s right to a legal education.”

Michael Smith, president of the Home School Legal Defense Association, said the ruling would effectively ban homeschooling in the state. Smith stated, “California is now on the path to being the only state to deny the vast majority of homeschooling parents their fundamental right to teach their own children at home.”

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has pledged to support the right to homeschool. Schwarzenegger stated, “This outrageous ruling must be overturned by the courts, and if the courts don’t protect parent’s rights, then, as elected officials we will.”

Leslie Heimov, executive director of the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles stated that her organization’s chief concern was not the quality of the children’s education, but their “being in a place daily where they would be observed by people who had a duty to ensure their ongoing safety.”

## News Briefs

### • Lexington, Mass., father of 6-year-old, arrested, spends night in jail over objections to homosexual curriculum in son's kindergarten class.

On April 27, 2005, David Parker was arrested and charged with "trespassing" at his son's elementary school during a scheduled meeting with the principal and the town's Director of Education over his objections to homosexual curriculum materials. Parker had asked for notification and possible "opt-out" for homosexual curriculum or ad-hoc discussions by adults in his son's kindergarten class. After several months of communication, he was told that his requests were "not possible." He finally said he would not leave the meeting until the issue was resolved. After being arrested and spending the night in jail, Parker was arraigned in Concord District Court and released on a \$1,000 surety bond. He was officially told that he may not set foot on any school property in Lexington or he will be arrested again for trespassing.

May 10, 2005, David Parker and his story were featured on

"The O'Reilly Factor." Read the rest of David Parker's story at [www.massresistance.org](http://www.massresistance.org).

### • German Government Bans Home Education

On September 12, 2006, the European Court of Human Rights affirmed the power of the German government to ban home education. Parents who claimed both parental rights and religious freedom were rebuffed by the court in a shocking assertion of raw government power to indoctrinate children—all in the name of the promotion of pluralism. Pluralism (a goal of the human rights movement) means that people of different races, religions and views should live together with mutual respect and as equal citizens. *Editors note: Advocates of pluralism view Christianity as intolerant and incompatible with the mutual respect of people with different views on religion or sexual behavior. Christians believe that there is only one way to God and that certain lifestyles are unacceptable. International law will ban Christ-centered education in America.*

"The Onslaught of International Law: Can America Protect Parental Rights," Court Report, November/December 2006

### Focus on the Family's The Truth Project

September 27, 2008 South Hills Bible Chapel  
McMurray, Pennsylvania

Participate in the first live simulcast via satellite to churches nationwide. This event is a transforming, empowering in-depth Christian worldview experience. Only 9% of professing evangelical Christians hold a Biblical worldview. Prepare yourself and your children to answer these questions: Who is God? Why am I here? Are there moral absolutes? What is truth? Does God really care? Where did evil come from? Be challenged. "Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?"

This unique 12 session DVD worldview curriculum can only be obtained by attending a training session or participating in a small group sponsored by someone who has completed the training. To register visit: [www.thetruthproject.org](http://www.thetruthproject.org)

## Pennsylvania Needs a Marriage Protection Amendment

The legalization of same-sex marriages in Massachusetts and the creation of "civil unions" in Vermont have created an urgent need for Pennsylvania to join 27 other states that have voted to protect the institution of marriage by amending their state constitutions.

Visit, call and or write to your State Senator and Representative today, ask them to support SB 1250- the Marriage Protection Amendment. For more information and the latest news, visit [www.pa4marriage.org](http://www.pa4marriage.org)

Visit the Means Family website to download past issues of The Educator including "Why We Need a Constitutional Amendment Protecting Marriage," March 2004 and "Preserving America's Godly Heritage," Fall 2005  
<http://www.bethel-park.com/means>

## Prayer Partners Needed

The Pennsylvania Family Institute's belief in the power of prayer was put into action when they launched the prayer partner initiative. Their vision is to match every Pennsylvania senator and representative with a prayer partner.

Needed are individuals who will commit to pray once a week for their state senator and representative. Twice a year, prayer partners are to contact their legislators informing them that they are being lifted up in prayer and inquiring if their legislator has any specific prayer requests. Once a month, the Pennsylvania Family Institute will e-mail prayer partners a list of issues being considered by the Pennsylvania Legislature. Once a year, prayer partners are expected to visit their legislators to discuss issues being considered by the legislature.

The life of a legislator is difficult; they typically spend 3 days a week in Harrisburg. When they are in their home district, they visit constituents and attend community events. Our legislators need prayer. Hearts and lives will be changed through the power of prayer! If you are interested in participating in this project, contact Emily Shaheen at the Pennsylvania Family Institute [eshaaheen@pafamily.org](mailto:eshaaheen@pafamily.org) or call 717.545.0600.

## Elect Good Candidates

*America's future is determined by elected officials therefore it is essential to elect representatives that hold true to Judeo-Christian values (i.e., right to life and protecting marriage). It is virtually impossible to convince an elected official that adheres to a different set of values to implement policy contrary to his beliefs.*

*Candidates should be evaluated on their personal character, philosophies and voting records. Another very revealing way to evaluate the inner workings of a candidate is to view the financial contributions of their political backers. Remember the old adage "a man is judged by the company he keeps."*

### Where to Find Voter Registration Forms and Absentee Ballot Request Forms

- County Dept. of Elections
- State Senator's Office
- State Representative's Office
- Public Library
- PA Dept. of Elections  
[www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us) (you can download the forms; don't forget the directions)

### Important Dates for the 2008 Election

Deadline to Register:  
**October 6, 2008**

Deadline to file an absentee ballot request form:  
**October 28, 2008**

Deadline to submit an absentee ballot:  
**October 31, 2008**

Election Day:  
**November 4, 2008**

## VOTE VALUES

### Helpful Websites

[www.ivotevalues.org](http://www.ivotevalues.org)  
[www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us)  
[www.pafamily.org](http://www.pafamily.org)  
[www.hsld.org](http://www.hsld.org)  
[www.generationjoshua.org](http://www.generationjoshua.org)  
[www.parentalrights.org](http://www.parentalrights.org)  
[www.bethel-park.com/means/](http://www.bethel-park.com/means/)