

## **Parental Rights are Being Eroded – Can They Be Restored?**

In 2015 the Obama administration argued that “...the right of a parent to decide the kind of education their child will receive is not a human right sufficient to grant refugee status to those robbed of it.” The claim was made in *Romeike v. Holder*. The Romeikes are a German family who were denied the right to educate their children at home, fined multiple times and threatened with jail and the loss of their children in Germany. They came to the United States in 2008 seeking the right to asylum from religious persecution. The father, Uwe Romeike, said, “Germany wants to impose its worldview on children and does not want parents to form their children according to their own worldview – as it might be different to that of the German state.”

The decision by Germany and the Obama Administration is juxtaposed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a charter created by the United Nations in 1948 in direct response to the atrocities of the Nazi regime. Article 26-3 states, “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

Although the Romeikes were eventually given permission to stay in the United States by the Department of Homeland Security, they did not win their legal case. And now Americans are witnessing firsthand the increasing erosion of parents’ rights to choose and influence their own children’s education. The organization Parental Rights stated in a 2017 report, “...the area of education also sees the tension between parents and a group of professional elites who believe they can better make decisions for all children.” They noted, “The march toward elitist control is a scary one.”

Fast forward to 2021. Not to be outdone by Obama and Holder, Joe Biden and his Attorney General Merrick Garland have taken opposition to parental rights to a new level. During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents began seeing, many for the first time, what was really being taught in their local schools. They began speaking out against pornographic reading assignments, cultural Marxism, anti-white racism and boys using girls’ bathrooms. Garland and education elites decided to sic the FBI on parents exercising their First Amendment and God-given rights.<sup>1</sup>

Now these political and education elitists are experiencing a push back. In Virginia, a former Governor and Clinton acolyte Terry McAuliffe stated during a 2021 gubernatorial debate, “I’m not going to let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decision.” He added, “I don’t think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.”<sup>2</sup> The response? An unknown Republican who was embracing parents’ rights, Glenn Youngkin, defeated McAuliffe in one of the most unexpected upsets in Virginia history.

Can the tide against parental rights be turned? The Heartland Institute is calling 2021 The Year of the Parent. In addition to high profile political wins like Youngkin and Virginia's new Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears, parents and grandparents all across America ran for local school boards against well-funded teacher-union-supported opponents. And many won! It's possible the big-government, anti-family types have awakened mama and papa bear.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/10/the-biden-justice-departments-lawless-threat-against-american-parents/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nypost.com/2021/10/15/virginia-parents-say-they-should-tell-schools-what-to-teach-poll/>