

Charlie Gard and Alfie Evans COMING TO AMERICA?

Last summer the European Court of Human Rights backed a United Kingdom high court's decision to end the life of young Charlie Gard over his parents' desperate objections. His parents raised \$2 million to bring him to the U.S. for further treatment, but the state hospital that housed him said it wasn't in his "best interests."

We urged Congress then to stand up and say, "Never here. Never again."

IT'S TOO LATE NOW FOR "NEVER AGAIN."

This past winter baby Alfie Evans, also of the United Kingdom, suffered the same fate. Doctors had no diagnosis, no answers. A hospital in Italy offered to take over his care and even provide transportation. The Italian government granted the boy citizenship. But the U.K. court once again declared that death was in the child's best interests. They seem to have a strange definition of "best interests" over there.

WHAT HAPPENS IN EUROPE HAS A WAY OF COMING HERE AS WELL.

And our Supreme Court's *Troxel v. Granville* (2000) decision has already paved the way.

Where once parental rights were afforded "strict judicial scrutiny" protection (*Troxel*, p. 80), now those same rights are granted only "some special weight" (*ibid.*, p. 70) – and what that means varies from judge to judge and case to case.

In too many medical cases, like those of Justina Pelletier of Massachusetts or Isaiah Rider of Missouri, it means giving the state power to override a parent's right to make informed medical decisions, or even to ask for a second opinion.

The proposed Parental Rights Amendment can keep what happened to Charlie and Alfie and their devastated parents from ever coming to our shores.

WE MUST STAND UP FOR "NEVER HERE" BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

