

1 SJR65  
2 128577-1  
3 By Senators Brewbaker, Beason, Sanford, McGill, Bussman,  
4 Taylor, Scofield, Blackwell, Allen, Williams, Reed, Ward,  
5 Waggoner, Holtzclaw, Whatley, and Pittman  
6 RFD:  
7 First Read: 05-APR-11

8 URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO  
9 OPPOSE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE  
10 RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

11  
12 WHEREAS, the right of the parents to direct the  
13 upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental  
14 right protected by the Constitution of the United States and  
15 the State of Alabama; and

16 WHEREAS, our nation has long pursued the path of  
17 relying first and foremost on parents to meet the real and  
18 necessary needs of children; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in  
20 *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), has held that "This  
21 primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their  
22 children is now established beyond debate as an enduring  
23 American tradition"; and

24 WHEREAS, children are best served by the continued  
25 practice of requiring proper proof of harm before the  
26 government intervenes in the family to override parental  
27 decisions in any sphere of the child's upbringing; and

1                   WHEREAS, certain members of the United States Senate  
2 have called upon the Secretary of State and the President to  
3 forward to them the United Nations Convention on the Rights of  
4 the Child for ratification; and

5                   WHEREAS, Article VI of the Constitution of the  
6 United States provides that treaties that are ratified by the  
7 Untied States Senate become a part of the "supreme law of the  
8 land" and that state laws and constitutions are subservient to  
9 the treaties; and

10                  WHEREAS, virtually all law that applies to children  
11 and families in Alabama is state law; and

12                  WHEREAS, by virtue of the federal Supremacy Clause  
13 all Alabama laws regarding children would be overridden if  
14 there is a conflict with this treaty if ratified; and

15                  WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States would  
16 acquire primary jurisdiction to legislate to meet our nation's  
17 legal obligation to comply with the treaty if ratified,  
18 thereby shifting from Alabama and her sister states to the  
19 Congress of the United States powers not formerly delegated  
20 which are currently reserved to the states under the Tenth  
21 Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

22                  WHEREAS, the treaty is subject to the general rule  
23 of international law that "custom" is binding law in many  
24 circumstances, rendering the text of a treaty as an unreliable  
25 guide to its future meaning; and

26                  WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee on the Rights  
27 of the Child at periodic intervals publishes "General

1 Comments" which are substantive additions to the obligations  
2 of state parties already under the Convention; and

3                   WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee on the Rights  
4 of the Child makes regular determinations of the meaning and  
5 the application of the treaty, and it would hold these  
6 interpretations to be binding on the Congress of the United  
7 States and the courts of the United States when interpreting  
8 and enforcing the treaty; and

9                   WHEREAS, this represents a wholesale abandonment of  
10 the ultimate sovereignty of the United States on matters  
11 within the scope of the treaty; and

12                   WHEREAS, this abandonment violates the core  
13 principle of our self-government: To-wit, only American  
14 Legislatures and the people themselves have the moral  
15 authority to make law for America; and

16                   WHEREAS, the substance of the treaty as interpreted  
17 and applied by this official United Nations tribunal:

18                       (1) Bans all corporal punishment, including  
19 reasonable spanking by parents.

20                       (2) Gives the government review authority of a broad  
21 scope of parental decisions without the necessity of proving  
22 that the parents are unfit or have harmed the child.

23                       (3) Allows children and government to override  
24 reasonable and ordinary decisions concerning the religious  
25 upbringing of the child.

(4) Allows the government the ability to review any parental decision concerning the education of their child, even if that decision fully complies with the law of Alabama.

(5) Requires a level of socialized spending programs for the supposed needs of children, which in too many cases simply employ more government workers, that would bankrupt any American state.

(6) Grants to children a legally enforceable right to leisure and many other particular "rights" that are contrary to American traditions and common sense; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That State of Alabama hereby condemns the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Alabama urges the United States Senate to reject its ratification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be provided to each member of the United States Senate.