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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

THE FIGHT TO FREE JUSTINA PELLETIER

In January 2013, Justina Pelletier attended private school and was a competitive figure skater. But her life changed when she was taken to the ER at Boston Children's Hospital at the direction of her treating physician at Tufts Medical Center. There, a doctor fresh out of medical school and a psychologist – without consulting her treating physician—reclassified her as having a mental condition and presented a new diagnosis that discontinued all medical treatment. When the parents tried to discharge Justina so they could return to Tufts, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) stepped in, and the family's nightmare began. I have never seen such abuse of government power! Join us in the fight to free Justina.

Just over 15 months ago in January 2013, Justina Pelletier, now 15, was a happy teenager attending a private school in Connecticut. But in February, her life changed.

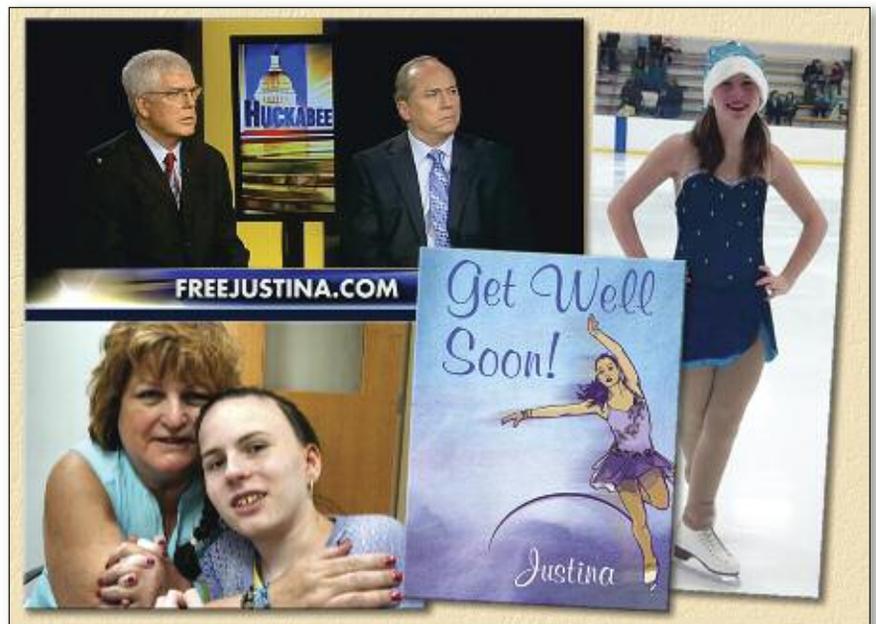
Following the advice of Dr. Mark Korson, Justina's treating physician who is Chief of Metabolic Services at Tufts Medical Center in Boston

(TMC), Lou and Linda Pelletier took Justina to the Emergency Room at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) to see Dr. Alex Flores, her gastroenterologist who, a few weeks earlier, had transferred from TMC to BCH.

But there, a new doctor from the

Netherlands, just seven months out of medical school, and a psychologist, without consulting with Drs. Korson or Flores, changed Justina's diagnosis from physical (Mitochondrial disease) to mental (Somatoform disorder). In

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Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver joins Justina Pelletier's father, Lou Pelletier, on Fox News Network's Huckabee program (top left). Staver has been featured as a guest commentator in a wide array of print and broadcast media outlets on this compelling case that has captured the attention of the nation. The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) recently announced Justina was being transferred to a facility in Connecticut as part of a "multi-step process in reuniting her with her family." In addition to our legal representation, we have launched a nationwide campaign to send thousands of hope-filled, Scripture-bearing "Get Well" cards to Justina. At far left, Linda Pelletier is shown with her suffering daughter. At far right, Justina is shown as a competitive figure skater in the days shortly before her abduction by DCF. After 16 months of DCF "care," she is confined to a wheelchair and is fighting life-threatening illness.

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other words, they decided that Justina's physical ailments were all in her head.

Justina's parents were presented with a new treatment plan that discontinued all medical services, forbade them from talking to Justina about her medical condition, and prevented them from seeking a second opinion. When the parents refused to sign the plan and requested that Justina be discharged back to her treating physician and Tufts, BCH summoned DCF, which prevented them from discharging their daughter. *BCH*

When the parents refused to sign the plan and requested that Justina be discharged back to her treating physician and Tufts, BCH summoned DCF, which prevented them from discharging their daughter.

told them they had to leave and could not return, and if they did, they would be arrested! Justina has not lived with her family since February 2013.

The psychologist, Dr. Simona Bujoreanu, coauthored an article contending that 50 percent of minors who present with physical complaints actually have mental disorders. She has received a federal grant from the National Institutes of Health to do research on gastrointestinal distress and Somatoform disorder. *BCH, a teaching hospital for Harvard University, has a policy supported by state law that it can do research on any minor who is a ward of the state.*

According to BCH's *Clinical and Investigation Policy and Procedure Manual*, "Children who are wards of the state may be included in research that presents minimal risk... or greater than minimal risk with a prospect of direct benefit." Justina was made available for research at BCH! This

sudden turn of events made Boston appear more like Nazi Germany than the cradle of American liberty!

The Pelletier family is not the first to get caught in the web of BCH and DCF. The *Boston Globe* reported that other families have brought their children to BCH for physical treatment only to have them reclassified as being mental patients, and DCF removed them from parental custody when the parents tried to discharge their children to the care of prior treating physicians.

This same DCF has "lost" 134 children – DCF has no idea where these missing children are located. And, 94 children in DCF's custody have died over the past few years! The body of one young five-year-old boy was recently discovered. DCF's ineptitude is a tragic and heartbreaking story.

For the past 15 months, Justina has not received any meaningful education. She is now at least two academic years behind her classmates. She has not been able to attend religious services or see a pastor or priest. She has not even been allowed to celebrate Easter or Christmas.

Her three older sisters have rarely been able to see her, and her 92-year-old grandmother has not seen her in more than a year. Justina's parents are only allowed to visit her one hour per week – and then only with DCF workers in the room. DCF has prevented the parents from even photographing their daughter. They are allowed one 20-minute phone call per week, but a DCF worker is present and counts down the minutes remaining – "15, 10, 1 minute to go"... click. The phone goes dead no matter where they are in the conversation.

Justina's mom and dad were following the medical advice of experts at Tufts Medical Center who were treating Justina for Mitochondrial disease, the same disorder that her 26-year-old sister has had for most of her life. The treatment was working well, as evidenced by Justina's high level of competitive figure skating. The state has no right to interfere with parents

who make reasonable medical decisions for their children!

The experiment on this young girl by Boston Children's Hospital backed by DCF has miserably failed. Justina is in physical distress. She has gone from competitive skating to a wheelchair. She is weak and now slurs her words because she has been denied medical care. She is losing her hair. ***This abuse must end and those responsible must be held accountable!***

Our Liberty Counsel legal and policy teams are working each day and weekend to get Justina home where she belongs. Justina and the family have experienced incredible emotional abuse.

Please pray for Justina and, if at all possible, please financially support Liberty Counsel so we can fight for Justina. We will not rest until Justina is home! You can sign a petition to free Justina or send her a Get Well card at www.StopDCFNow.com. "Like" us at www.Facebook.com/FreeJustinaPelletierNow. And Tweet #FreeJustina. Stand with us as we help this precious family stand up to the arrogant statist at the Massachusetts DCF! 🙏



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization's Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.

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by withholding IRS approval; and

- Monitor and control how much money you can give others by arbitrary campaign financing laws and limits.

Before you decide to grab your “bug out” bag and head for friendlier territory, I have some good news. The fundamental distinction between the former USSR and the USA is the vast difference between secularism and Christianity.

The United Soviet Socialist Republic was a secular state, devoid of even a hint of a Christian foundation. In contrast, America’s Christian heritage is incontrovertible. After decades of decline, we can rebuild our nation on Christian principles, but it will take time. *It will take effort and funding to engage and educate millions of*

After decades of decline, we can still rebuild our nation on Christian principles, but it will take time. It will take effort and funding to engage and educate millions of Americans to pray and vote for a system that promotes real freedom – and persuade others to do the same.

Americans to pray and vote for a system that promotes real freedom – and persuade others to do the same.

In accomplishing this momentous task, one of Liberty Counsel’s key outreaches is to pastors and other church leaders through our “Pastors and Patriots” initiative. This inspired

strategy is designed to educate church leaders about the role and influence of pastors during the founding of America, the biblical mandate to preach God’s Word, the critical issues we face in America, and concrete ways in which pastors and churches can defend Judeo-Christian values.

We hope you will join us as we work and pray so that the USA will never become the Socialist States of Amerika! ✝

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel’s President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.

DO YOU WANT TO BE UNCOMMON?

You can enjoy and use Liberty Counsel’s first feature-length motion picture, *Uncommon*, and special materials we have developed! These materials are designed to educate students, teachers, and parents about the fact that students do NOT lose their freedom of speech and freedom of religion when they enter the schoolhouse door!

THIS IS NOT JUST ENTERTAINMENT...

Uncommon is more than an entertaining movie. We have developed a package of resources designed to help you to become an uncommon Christian: A DVD of the 106-minute *Uncommon* movie is one you will want to get for your home movie collection. Special music was developed for the film, including several hip-hop and Latino-style music compositions. A CD (not pictured) containing all the inspirational songs from *Uncommon*, including “*Have Faith*,” an upbeat song written for the movie, allows you to take the inspiration with you throughout the day. *Uncommon Voices* is an 82-page, full-color, oversized book with scenes and quotes from the movie and real stories of people who stood up for their faith and never backed down. *Be Uncommon* is a month-long, five-day-a-week Bible study. Accompanied by a DVD, each day begins with a scene from *Uncommon*, the daily Scripture that goes with the scene, and a Bible study lesson that inspires the reader to be an uncommon Christian. *Uncommon* is not only an excellent film, but it can also be performed as a play in any setting. We have developed a script which can be performed by your drama group!

All of these uncommon resources are available at nominal cost in our *Online Store* at LC.org. But when you send a gift of at least \$50 to support Liberty Counsel’s vital mission today, we will send the DVD, play script, soundtrack CD, the Bible study, and the beautiful *Uncommon Voices* coffee table book. Simply check the special box on your Response Form and we will rush your resources to you.

Let these special resources give you the tools to become uncommon today!



From Anita Staver, President

ARE WE BECOMING THE SOCIALIST STATES OF AMERIKA?



Like a roaring lion and a charging bear is a wicked ruler over poor people. Proverbs 28:15

Today, America looks more like a socialist nation than the constitutional republic the Founders gave us. Welfare payments and other “entitlements” from the federal government have skyrocketed in recent years. *The more a government gives the people, the more control it exerts over their every move.*

Socialist states do not last. As the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher famously said, “The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money.” The former Soviet Union is a useful contemporary example of an attempt to make “central planning” work.

In September of 1990, the year before the fall of communism and dissolution of the Soviet Union, Mat

and I visited Moscow with a delegation of American lawyers to meet with Soviet lawyers who were redrafting their national constitution. Our group was treated warmly by the Soviet leadership, who put on a dazzling show complete with a grand banquet featuring President Gorbachev in a lavish Kremlin dining hall.

However, while the President and his cronies lived in luxury, ordinary

Although Soviet citizens had a constitutional “right” to food, healthcare, a job, housing, and education, those guaranteed rights came with rationing, mandates, regulations, and restrictions.

citizens suffered terribly under their failed socialist policies. The impact of decades of communist control was evident. Grim discontent showed on the solemn faces of the Soviet people we saw and was reflected in the casual comment of a young tour guide who pointed out a “good place to commit suicide.”

Shelves were nearly bare in the market near our hotel. Sugar and other staples were rationed via distribution of coupons. Inefficient government management caused shoppers to occupy their time by waiting in long lines.

Although Soviet citizens had a constitutional “right” to food, health-

care, a job, housing, and education, those guaranteed rights came with rationing, mandates, and restrictions. In reality, the bureaucracy that was supposed to help the people took over every aspect of their lives. The citizenry was only free to do what their government required.

Their constitution also guaranteed freedom of speech, but criticism and complaints about their president were cause for arrest! While we were in Moscow, a well-known Soviet dissident was sent to a psychiatric hospital for calling Gorbachev a “fascist.”

In a socialist state, the government controls your message, your buying habits, your career choice, your housing, and intrudes into many other aspects of your daily life.

Could America become like the former USSR? In many ways, we already have! Here are a few disturbing examples of what our government can already do:

- Require you to buy something even if you do not want it — like Obamacare mandated health insurance;
- Force you to attend a ceremony to photograph lesbians kissing, even if you object and others are willing to take the job;
- Seize your private property and give it to someone else for their benefit through the power of “eminent domain;”
- Prevent conservatives from forming nonprofit organizations

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Restoring the Culture by Advancing Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of Human Life and the Family

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