



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

October 3, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Attorney General Garland and Secretary Mayorkas:

Thirteen years ago, the Romeike family made national headlines when they were granted asylum in the United States after fleeing persecution in Germany for homeschooling their children. In 2013, the Obama Administration granted the Romeikes “indefinitely deferred action status,” allowing them to live and work in the United States. Now, news reports indicate that the Biden Administration is likely to deport this refugee family. This urgent matter is further reflected by the Order of Supervision provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to alien number A87368600, Uwe Romeike, who is to report with his passport for deportation on October 11, 2023.

This decision to potentially deport the Romeike family is as inexplicable as it is unconscionable.

By all accounts, the Romeikes are model citizens. Since their arrival to the United States, the members of the Romeike family have successfully assimilated into their local community and the fabric of American life. Uwe, the father, works at a Christian university. The youngest two children were born and raised here. The older Romeike children have even gotten married and have had their own children.

The Romeike family has lived peacefully and in our country for over a decade. To force this refugee family to suddenly return to Germany, with a government that once forcibly removed their children from their home simply for observing their deeply-held religious beliefs, is immoral and indefensible. Sending this family back to face certain persecution once again goes against everything we stand for as Americans. Should the Romeike family be required to return to Germany, the government will not recognize their children’s education and they may be unable to find work. Further, the German government will very likely seek to remove the minor children of the Romeike family — American citizens — from the custody of their parents, as well as penalize members of the Romeike family with jail time and punitive fines. Not only would they face discrimination, but two of the Romeike family members born here have citizenship and others have married Americans. To separate the family would be unwarranted.

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Under federal law, you possess the legal authority to grant asylum to the Romeike family. We, the undersigned members of Congress, respectfully ask that you use this power given to you by Congress to grant the Romeike family asylum.


Sincerely,



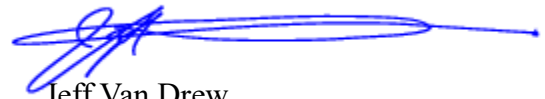
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



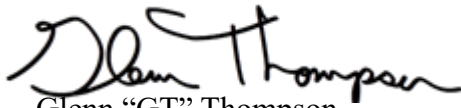
Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



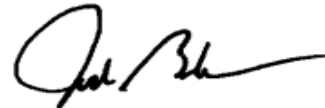
Mary Miller
Member of Congress




Jeff Van Drew
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



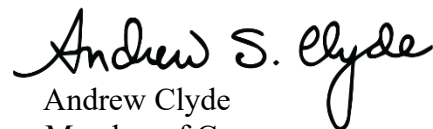
Tim Burchett
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Andy Ogles
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Chuck Fleischmann
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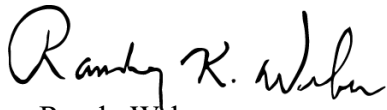
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Bill Posey
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Michael Guest
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Randy Weber
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Daniel Webster
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John Moolenaar
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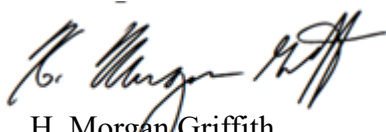
Chris Smith
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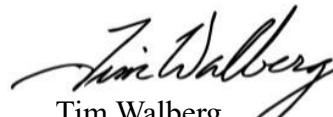
Barry Moore
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Rudy Yakym
Member of Congress



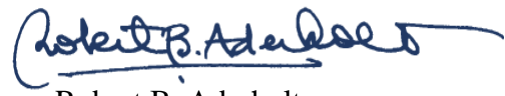
H. Morgan Griffith
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Tim Walberg
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Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
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Eric A. Rick Crawford
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Bruce Westerman
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Richard Hudson
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John Rose
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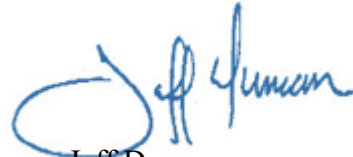
Mark Green, M.D.
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Mike Ezell
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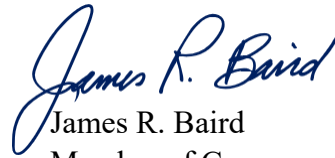
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