

PETITION TO RECALL THE HONORABLE HANS G. KLEMM, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO BUCHAREST

December 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned are Romanian-American citizens of the United States, citizens of Romania, and other concerned Romanians from around the world, men and women of good faith from all walks of life, civic and religious leaders, pastors, priests, business leaders, leaders of various nongovernmental organizations, journalists, media personalities, current or former politicians, and influential persons in Romania as well as in the Romanian-American community. We address this Petition to you with utmost respect in the hope that you will consider the immediate recall of The United States' current Ambassador to Romania, the Honorable Hans G. Klemm. Our plea rests on grounds which we deem serious and compelling.

The Ambassador Klemm has interfered in Romania's internal affairs and has undermined Romania's national sovereignty. We are primarily concerned that Ambassador Klemm does not represent the interests or values of United States citizens in Romania and is trampling on the values and feelings of the citizens of Romania in a manner that offends and undermines the deep friendship which has connected the United States and Romania for a long time.

For more than a century Romania has been a faithful friend and ally of the United States. Nowhere in Europe does the United States enjoy more popularity than in Romania. No other country in Europe is more friendly to the United States than Romania. No other country in Europe has proven to be a more loyal ally of the United States than Romania. Romania is also a loyal and stable member of NATO. And, along with a few other countries, Romania is one of the main pillars of the current US Administration's policy and strategy in Europe to keep peace and security on the continent. Given these considerations, Romania's national sovereignty should be respected and the values and convictions of its citizens honored.

Romania and its people have traditionally been very conservative, deeply religious, and highly respectful of traditional family values. Romanians, and Romanian-Americans, take pride in their Christian heritage; a heritage of faith and a commitment to Christian values unshaken despite a long history of afflicting cataclysms. Romania's Christian heritage even withstood the nearly half a century of communist, totalitarian, and atheistic rule that ended in December 1989.

Unlike in Western Europe, Christianity and the commitment to Christian values in Romanian have grown and reached unprecedented levels. According to a massive Pew Research Center study published in May of 2017, more than 98% of Romania's people identify as Christians. The same study showed that Romanians are deeply attached to Christian and family values which they view as central to their identity and way of life.

In spite of his awareness of Romania's Christian heritage, Ambassador Klemm has consistently acted in ways which offended Romanians and their values. Since becoming Ambassador to Romania in September 2015, Ambassador Klemm has aggressively promoted, and continues to promote, an anti-Christian agenda with a primary focus on advancing the homosexual agenda promoted by the Obama Administration. Ambassador Klemm has participated in pride parades in Bucharest, signed Joint

Declarations, along with ambassadors from other countries from the European Union, in support of pride parades, and displayed the rainbow flag on the building of the United States Embassy in Bucharest. Ambassador Klemm has constantly criticized men and women of good faith in Romania who promote conservative and traditional views related to morality, marriage, and traditional family values.

More egregiously, since 2016, Ambassador Klemm has emerged as the main opponent of a 2015 constitutional amendment, initiated by Romanian citizens, to implement the definition of the natural marriage and family in Romania's Constitution. In 2015 and 2016, three (3) million Romanian citizens, over a period of six (6) months, signed a petition in support of the amendment; the largest number of signatures ever given, anywhere in the world, in support of such an endeavor. The sheer number of signatures unmistakably reflects the will of the people of Romania to maintain natural marriage and the natural family as the norm and main social institutions in their country. The main source of inspiration for the three million signers have been the people of the United States who between 2005 and 2015 have given millions of signatures in support of similar amendments that resulted in the amending of almost thirty (30) state constitutions to give marriage its natural and traditional meaning.

In the summer of 2016, Romania's Constitutional Court ruled that the proposed amendment was constitutional and in May 2016 Romania's Chamber of Deputies overwhelmingly passed the amendment. The same amendment is now pending in Romania's Senate. However, as soon as the Constitutional Court upheld the constitutionality of the proposed amendment, Ambassador Klemm began to interfere with the constitutionally mandated process for the formal adoption of the amendment in Romania's Parliament and the amendment's placement on the ballot in a national referendum. To this end, Ambassador Klemm on several occasions summoned leaders of different political parties, influential politicians, and civic leaders to the United States Embassy in Bucharest to instruct them to oppose the amendment, ensure that the amendment would not pass in Romania's Parliament, and furthermore ensure the amendment's defeat. This interfering conduct intensified in 2017 through to today and we are of the opinion that his comments and actions are inappropriate.

The people of Romania have the right to express their view on marriage, a topic which in recent decades has become highly sensitive and important. Romanians have the same rights as the people of the United States, the people of Ireland, and the people of other countries to vote in national referenda on marriage and the family. To this point, the citizens of Australia have similarly participated in a non-binding national plebiscite on the definition of marriage.

In emerging as the main obstacle and opposition to the Romanian marriage referendum, Ambassador Klemm is acting against the will of the people of Romania and is misrepresenting the United States in Romania. The overwhelming majority of the American people object to their ambassadors engaging in actions which offend the feelings and persuasions of the countries in which they are stationed.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned, respectfully ask you, Mr. President, to consider the immediate recall of The Honorable Hans Klemm as Ambassador of the United States to Bucharest and to replace him with an ambassador who shares the Christian values and commitments of the Romania people and who will abstain from interfering in Romania's internal affairs.

List of Signatories

1. Peter Costea, Attorney, Houston, Texas