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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

September 21, 1998

Mr. Walter Paul Benda  
P.O. Box 583  
Max Meadows, VA 24360

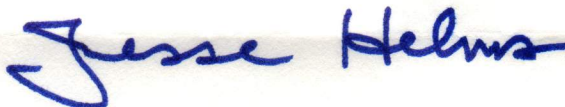
Dear Mr. Benda:

You had written me last year regarding the abduction of your daughters. Let me thank you again for bringing your tragic situation to my attention.

As you can imagine, I hear of cases of international child abduction occurring far too often. I plan to highlight this issue at a special hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on October 1. Attorney General Janet Reno has agreed to testify before the Committee on this particular topic. I would welcome a statement from you concerning the abduction of your children to be entered into the public record.

My sympathies are with you and your family during this difficult time in your lives. Rest assured I will keep your case in mind as the Foreign Relations Committee considers issues related to international child abduction, including the Hague Convention.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS

JH: swm