OPINION
November 19, 2023

The parents of Indi Gregory, an 11-year-old with a terminal genetic condition, have had their lives upended by the British National Health Service (NHS). Indi, who has mitochondrial disease, was entitled to treatment by experts with contrary opinions. Instead, the NHS went back to the same court and judge to insist it remained in charge. Lest they try anything else to save their daughter, the parents were stripped of decision-making support, the NHS turned to the courts to strip the parents of decision-making control. Had Indi been in the U.S., her treating hospital would have transferred her to the nearest willing hospital, even if its physicians thought treatment would be futile. For the parents simply wanted the freedom to take their daughter to the experts in a better country.

That's the story of Indi Gregory in Nottingham, England. Yet Indi Gregory's story gets much worse. While the NHS thought continued treatment would be futile, other experts disagreed, including at the Vatican's Holy See. Pope Francis erred a judgment in the case of Tafida Raqeeb, a 19-year-old who was deemed by a court to be mentally incompetent because she wanted to pursue experimental treatment in Canada. Indi's parents found themselves in the same circumstances, they should be seeking to protect the child's life, not sending the child to die. Incompetent because they wanted to pursue treatment by experts with contrary opinions. The parents had no choice but to comply. Lest they try anything else to save their daughter, she died in the NHS's "care" in September. Instead of providing life-saving care from experts elsewhere.

Barred from leaving, she died in the NHS's "care" in September. The V alue of W ealth

October 19, 2023

Students discuss the controversy over advice against taking ivermectin for Covid-19. When the government foots the bill for every patient, it may decide to deprive patients of the right to try, stopping them from seeking potentially life-saving care from experts elsewhere.

Growing numbers of doctors are offering to move patients to Canada, where clinical trials are available and patients have a better chance of survival. At the Vatican's Hospital as Israel, the Pope has endorsed the right to try. Had Indi been in the U.S., her treating hospital would have transferred her to the nearest willing hospital, even if its physicians thought treatment would be futile. For the parents simply wanted the freedom to take their daughter to the experts in a better country.

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