



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 18 2017

Mr. Paulo Abrão
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Mark Allen Taylor, Petition No. P-55-12

Dear Mr. Abrão:

The United States Government acknowledges the letter from your office dated January 5, 2017, in the above-referenced matter, received on March 13, 2017, which transmits a request for a friendly settlement procedure in this Petition.

The United States is not able to consider pursuing a friendly settlement of this matter under Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure ("Rules") of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, for several reasons. First, as discussed in the United States Response to the Petition dated December 6, 2016, the person requesting the friendly settlement, Dr. Janet Parker of the Medical Whistleblower Advocacy Network, does not appear to be designated as a representative of Mr. Taylor in accordance with Article 23 of the Rules. In addition, there are constraints on the federal government engaging in a friendly settlement because the issues raised in the Petition of legal capacity and guardianship are governed by the law of the states of the United States, and not by federal law. The relief sought for Mr. Taylor, including the right to make decisions about who should serve as his guardian, his medical care, and his living arrangements, are not within the control of the federal government. Thus, federal authorities are not in a position to engage in a process that could reach a friendly settlement regarding these matters.

Please accept renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin K. Sullivan", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin K. Sullivan
Interim Permanent Representative