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November 4, 2013

**Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I write in support of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We urge ratification of this non-discrimination treaty which will help empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

Like the landmark civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, this Convention reflects core American values such as upholding the dignity of the individual, and providing access to appropriate healthcare and support services. Ratification provides our nation with an opportunity to help support the development of disability rights for the one billion individuals with disabilities around the world.

We urge the Committee to give prompt and favorable consideration to this Convention and the Senate to give its advice and consent to its ratification.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Loveless
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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