



October 29, 2013

Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Community Resources for Independent Living

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Dear Senator Boxer:

On behalf of Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL), I am writing to support ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). CRIL is a Center for Independent Living located in Hayward, serving people with disabilities of all ages and backgrounds who live in southern and eastern Alameda County. We provide over 15 services, peer counseling, skill training and advocacy supports that assist seniors and people with disabilities to improve their lives and maintain personal independence. CRIL's community advocacy work also strives to eliminate the environmental and attitudinal barriers to full access and integration for all CA residents.

The CRPD is a non-discrimination treaty seeking to achieve the same goals as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other existing disability laws in United States: to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. The CRPD is important to all people with disabilities, including our veterans and service members with disabilities, as it embodies equal treatment and non-discrimination in access to rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities.

By ratifying the CRPD, the United States will continue to be a leader in setting the standards for ensuring the human rights of individuals with disabilities, as we have under the ADA, IDEA, etc. The Convention reflects core American values such as the dignity of the individual, access to justice, the importance of family decision-making and access to appropriate healthcare.

Through these mechanisms, the United States can provide and influence guidance on the implementation of the treaty around the world and lend our expertise as more countries develop their own disability rights laws. Such leadership will not only further our nation's vision for global human rights, but assist the millions of people with disabilities from the United States such as military veterans, students, scientists, tourists and business leaders, and their families who live, do business, and travel abroad. American citizens with disabilities should have the same opportunity to benefit from a world economy that is fully accessible to all people.

Community Resources for Independent Living is committed to US leadership on behalf of the 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. We believe swift US ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in this country's best interest and ask you for your support and leadership on this issue.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Sheri.Burns@crilhayward.org or 510-881-5743.

Sincerely,

Sheri Burns
Executive Director