



P.O. Box 3995
Atlanta GA 30302-3995

Phone: 404/413-1281
Fax: 404/413-1299

October 30, 2013

Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Please, Vote YES on Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Dear Chairman Menendez;

On behalf of the Center for Leadership in Disability, its faculty, staff, trainees, fellows and numerous advocates, I urge you to support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Center for Leadership in Disability is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Georgia State University. We understand that consideration of this bill in the Foreign Relations Committee will take place in early November.

The CRPD seeks to achieve the same goals as the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws against discrimination on the basis of disability status in United States. 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.

The convention embraces our American ideal of empowerment, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, full inclusion and integration into all aspects of society for individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, the treaty holds up the laws of United States of America as a beacon to the world.

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. With ratification, 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.

The Center for Leadership in Disability is committed to U.S. leadership on behalf of the more than one billion people with disabilities worldwide. I believe bipartisan ratification of the CRPD is in our country's best interest and ask for your support and leadership on this critical issue. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact me at dcrimmins@gsu.edu or 404-413-1286.

Respectfully,

Daniel Crimmins, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Leadership in Disability
Professor, School of Public Health