



May 14, 2013

The Honorable Mark Kirk
230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604


Dear Senator Kirk:

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce I encourage your support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For the last 109 years our chamber has been a leader of business growth throughout the region. Being the most progressive chamber in the midwest, we are enhancing Chicagoland's position as one of the world's leading global hubs.

Since President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, the United States has been a world leader in creating opportunity in the workplace, in the marketplace, and in society for individuals with disabilities. Ratification of the convention allows the U.S. to continue as a world leader, and benefits business interests abroad by expanding the pool of international talent, and reaching new and emerging markets especially in the area of technology where U.S. companies excel in the design and manufacture of accessibility products. In addition to the support of the United States Chamber of Commerce and national business organizations, the convention has the support of veterans service organizations who have recognized that 5.5 million veterans with disabilities will have greater opportunity to work, study and travel abroad as countries implement the convention with our nation's leadership.

For these reasons, our chamber urges you and the U.S. Senate to offer its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,



Gerald Roper
President & Chief Executive Officer