



# East Bay Developmental Disabilities Legislative Coalition

November 7, 2013

Dear Senator:

Alameda County  
Developmental  
Disabilities Council

Area Board 5

Developmental  
Disabilities Council of  
Contra Costa County

Regional Center of the  
East Bay

Provider/Vendor  
Advisory Committee

**RE: Support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).**

The East Bay Developmental Disabilities Legislative Coalition (EBLC) is comprised of the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council, Area Board 5, the Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County, Regional Center of the East Bay and the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee. The EBLC coordinates local efforts which impact the development of public policy for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

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 the 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.

The EBLC 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 contact Sandi Soliday at (510) 267-3261.

Sincerely,  
Josh Sullivan and Carl Tolentino, Co-Chairs  
East Bay Legislative Coalition