



## Easter Seals

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### Tennessee

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November 14, 2013

Dear Senator:

A couple of months ago I traveled to your office in Washington, DC to discuss the importance of the ratification of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As we discussed with your Aid, this treaty is necessary to further the rights of people with disabilities throughout the world. As a fellow Tennessean and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities, I am writing you today to once again ask for your support of this important initiative.

By voting to ratify this convention, you will advance the rights currently available to children and adults with disabilities in the United States through landmark civil rights law like the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to children and adults with disabilities across the globe. In addition, Americans with disabilities who work and travel abroad, including disabled American veterans and military family members, will be protected from discrimination.

Swift ratification of the Convention is necessary. If the Senate is able to ratify the Convention in the next few months, it will allow the United States of America (USA) to participate in the CRPD Conference of States Parties and permit our country to appoint a member to the CRPD Committee. Through these mechanisms, the USA can provide and influence guidance on the implementation of the treaty and lend its expertise as more countries develop their own disability rights laws.

Thank you for considering our views. If you have additional questions, please contact Jennifer Dexter, Assistant Vice President, Government Relations. She can be reached at [jdexter@easterseals.com](mailto:jdexter@easterseals.com), or 202.347.3066.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita S. Baumgartner".

Rita S. Baumgartner  
President and CEO