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Senator Robert Menendez
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Dear Senator Menendez:

Among my fondest memories is the time that I was able to work with a cross-disability advocacy group in the effort to see passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. There is no other legislation that has had such a direct impact on my life and I am proud to have played a small part in working for its passage.

I am trying to play a part in supporting a similar, international effort. I write today in support of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). I know that you support this effort and want to be on record thanking you for that. I also want to be on record urging the Committee to quickly ratify the CRPD in a bipartisan way.

The CRPD is a non-discrimination treaty aimed at providing the same rights around the world that we enjoy in the United States thanks to the ADA. Its goals include empowering individuals with disabilities to be self sufficient, live independently and be integrated and included in all aspects of society.

Through such laws as the ADA, the United States has long been a leader in recognizing the rights and abilities of people with disabilities and by ratifying the CRPD will continue to be recognized as such around the world.

American citizens with disabilities who live, work or travel abroad will have the same opportunities to benefit from a world economy as will those Americans who are not disabled.

In my mind, nothing is more American than recognizing equal opportunity for all citizens. The CRPD will extend that recognition to include individuals with disabilities world wide.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I eagerly look forward to ratification.

Sincerely