



October 31, 2013

Dear Senator:

HandReach is writing in support of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). 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 United States: to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

Any of us could become disabled at any time. Any of us are an accident away from needing medical treatment, rehabilitation, and access to employment and education.

The CRPD is thus crucial to all people, and we ask for your leadership in protecting "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for all.

Swift US ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in this country's best interest and we ask you for your strong support on this issue.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at [brecken@handreach.org](mailto:brecken@handreach.org), or 202-213-9267

Sincerely,

Brecken Chinn Swartz, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
HandReach