



November 1, 2013

Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Corker:

Little People of America urges the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to support the U.S. Senate Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. More than 700 disability, veterans and other organizations nationwide have joined together to build support for the treaty.

For people with disabilities, this treaty is important in many ways. It will protect travelers with disabilities when visiting countries outside of the United States. It will protect Americans with disabilities who work abroad and who live abroad. Ratification will also enable the United States to bring its wealth of experience around accessibility and disability rights to the rest of the world. Without United States Ratification of the treaty, we will not have the same recourse to shape disability policy and protections worldwide.

As a person with dwarfism, ratification of the convention is personally very important to me. Around the world, there are other organizations similar to Little People of America. In 2012, Little People of Uganda shared a story about a young man with dwarfism. The young man's girlfriend, who is average stature, had recently given birth to a baby with dwarfism. The girlfriend's mother, the new baby's maternal grandmother, stole the baby away from its mother and murdered the baby, simply because the baby was a dwarf. Tragedies like this underscore the importance of U.S. Ratification of the United Nations Treaty on the Rights of People with Disabilities. When the U.S. ratifies the treaty, the United States Government and groups like Little People of America will have a stronger tool with which to support people with dwarfism in other countries. With U.S. Ratification, this country will have a stronger voice in shaping policy and protecting people with all disabilities worldwide.

As the Foreign Relations Committee conducts hearings on the treaty in early November, we are counting on you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Arnold, President
Little People of America

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