



100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
t] 800.664.3848
f] 202.544.0890
w] www.lutheranservices.org

November 12, 2013

Senator Bob Corker
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-425
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

Lutheran Services in America (LSA) is writing to support ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). LSA is committed to the humane and moral treatment of people with disabilities around the world. Modeled after the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the CRPD supports the American ideal of full inclusion for people with disabilities in society and their right to live a life of independence and dignity.

LSA is a nationwide network of more than 300 Lutheran health and human services organizations that together touch the lives of one in 50 Americans each year. LSA members serve a broad range of people – children, youth and families, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, the homeless and those recovering from disasters – and provide a spectrum of services. LSA is ranked number 25 in the Philanthropy 400, a list of the largest nonprofit organizations.

As an organization, LSA continues to demonstrate our dedication to supporting individuals with disabilities, in the U.S. and abroad, through the ongoing international outreach of our members. LSA members have established numerous international partnerships, targeting countries and societies in which there is the greatest chance to make a positive impact on the supports and services for people with disabilities. Current locations of outreach include:

- Latin America – Dominican Republic, Brazil, Argentina
- Europe – Bulgaria, Latvia, Romania, Western Russia
- Africa – Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania
- Asia – Kazakhstan, Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore

By ratifying the CRPD, the U.S. will continue to be a leader in setting the standards for ensuring the human rights of individuals with disabilities. As faith-based service providers, we believe that the CRPD reflects the core Biblical and American values of individual dignity, access to justice and the importance of family decision-making.

LSA is committed to U.S. leadership on behalf of the one billion people with disabilities worldwide. We believe that swift U.S. ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in the country's best interest and consistent with our values. We ask for your support and leadership on this issue.

If you have additional questions, please contact Sarah Meek, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for our Disability Network, at smeek@lutheranservices.org or (202) 499-5831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Haberaecker".

Charlotte Haberaecker
President & CEO
Lutheran Services in America