



October 29, 2013

Honorable Bob Menendez, Committee Chair
Honorable Bob Corker, Ranking Member
Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Corker,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) to express support for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). NACDD serves as the national voice of the 56 State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities. We support the DD Councils in implementing the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act while promoting the interest and rights of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The CRPD is important to all people with disabilities, including people with developmental disabilities, as it embodies the values of the DD Act including equal treatment and non-discrimination in access to rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities. The treaty 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 disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

NACDD is committed to US leadership on behalf of the 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. We believe swift US ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in this country's best interest and ask you for your support and leadership on this issue.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at egrant@nacdd.org or 202-506-5813.

Sincerely,

Esmé Grant, Esq.
Director of Public Policy