

On *behalf of the brave men and women*
who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country...

On *behalf of countless patriotic veterans*
whose scars and wounds have made the world a more peaceful place...

On *behalf of the many proud Americans*
living with disabilities...

*We the Undersigned Emphatically Urge the Senate to
Support America's Legacy of International Leadership
by Ratifying the Landmark Disabilities Treaty*

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

These days, Americans are divided on many issues. Too rarely do we have the chance to speak with one voice about values we all share.

This week, United States Senators have just such an opportunity by supporting and voting to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The U.S. has led the way on this global accord which extends basic human rights to people with disabilities everywhere. 22 years ago, a deeply divided country came together and brought forth the passage of a major legislative milestone, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and now the international community, developing and advanced nations alike, has followed in our footsteps by ushering forth new protections, rights, and recognitions for disabled persons.

Those unique and unmistakably American values declare that every person—every daughter, son, mother, father, sister and brother—has the right to live a better life free from isolation, abuse and discrimination.

The push for bipartisan agreement on ratification has been led by Republican Senators John McCain (AZ), John Barrasso (WY) and Jerry Moran (KS), Democratic Senators Richard Durbin (IL), Chris Coons (DE), Tom Udall (NM) and Tom Harkin (IA), former President George Herbert Walker Bush, former Senator Robert Dole, as well as former U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburg.

The treaty has firm support from 21 major veterans groups.

It's not only the right thing to do, but it's economically attractive! Even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce agrees that unleashing the potential of people with disabilities will benefit economic growth, create vast opportunities for U.S. businesses, and make it easier for U.S. employees with disabilities to participate in the global economy.

CRPD will help to open the long-closed international doors for more than one billion people with disabilities, particularly in developing countries, and Americans with disabilities who travel worldwide. It will not impact or interfere in any way with standing U.S. laws.

SUPPORT THE RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

VOTE TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Ability Chicago
Access Alaska Inc.
Access Living
Access, Inc.
ACCSES
Actionplay
ADAPT Delaware
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
Alliance Center for Independence
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Advocating 4 Kids LLC
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association on Health and Disability

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation
American Civil Liberties Union
American Council of the Blind
American Counseling Association
American Dance Therapy Association
Anti-Defamation League
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American GI Forum
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Music Therapy Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research
AMVETS
APSE
ARC Gateway, Inc.
Arc Northland
Arc of Lucas county
Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL)
Association for Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
Association of United States Navy
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Association on Higher Education & Disability
Attention Deficit Disorder Association
Auditory Sciences
Autism National Committee
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Speaks
Bay Area People First
Bay Cove Human Services, Inc.
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Bender Consulting Services, Inc.
Best Buddies International, Inc.
BlazeSports America
Blinded Veterans Association
BlueLaw International
Boston Center for Independent Living

Brain Injury Association of America
Bridge II Sports
Bridgewell
Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University
California Association of the Deaf – Riverside Chapter
CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area Board 5
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.
CBM
Center for Disability Rights
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
Center for Leadership in Disability
Center on Disability and Community Inclusion
Challenged Conquistadors, Inc.
Check and Connect Program – Central Lakes College
Citizens for Patient Safety
Community Access Project Somerville
Community Access Unlimited
Community Alliance for the Ethical Treatment of Youth
Community Resources for Independent Living
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Consumer Advisory Committee
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities
Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
DAWN Center for Independent Living
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance
Deaf Education And Families Project
Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council
Delaware Family Voices
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
Disabled American Veterans
Disability Connection/West Michigan
Disability Help Center
Disability Law Center
disABILITY LINK
Disability Partners
disABILITY Resource Center
Disability Rights Coalition
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Disability Rights Fund
Disability Rights International
Disability Rights Legal Center
disAbility Solutions for Independent Living
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan NYC
Disabled Rights Action Committee
Disabled Sports USA
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Down Syndrome Association of Snohomish County
Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan
Dream Ahead the Empowerment Initiative
Dynamic Independence
East Texas Center for Independent Living
Easter Seals
ED101 Inc.
Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities International, Inc
Employment & Community Options
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Fearless Nation PTSD Support
Federal Employees with Disabilities (FEDs)
FESTAC-USA (Festival of African Arts and Culture)
FHI n360
Fiesta Christian foundation Inc
504 Democratic Club

Foundations For Change, PC
Four Freedoms Forum
Fox River Industries
FREED Center for Independent Living
Friedman Place
G3ict
Gallaudet University
GlobalPartnersUnited
Goodwill Industries International
Greater Haverhill Newburyport
Handicap International
HEAL
Hearing Loss Association of America
Hearing Loss Association of Los Angeles
Hesperian Health Guides
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
Human Rights Watch
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association
Independent Living, Inc.
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc.
Independent Living Center of the North Shore & Cape Ann, Inc
Institute for Community Inclusion: U.MA Boston
Institute for Human Centered Design
Institute on Human Development and Disability
Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP)
Inter-American Institute on Disability
International Ventilator Users Network
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans
Johnson County Board of Services
Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
Just Advocacy of Mississippi
KEY Consumer Organization, Inc.
KIDZCARE School
L.E.A.N. On Us
Lakeshore Foundation
Lakeside Curative Systems, Inc.
LINC
Little People of America
Living Independence For Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL)
Loudon ENDependence
Mainstay Solutions LLC
Maryland Disability Law Center
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress
Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change
Medical Whistleblower Advocacy Network
Medical Inc.
Mental Health Action
Mental Health America
MI Developmental Disabilities Council
Military Officers Association of America
MindFreedom International
Mobility International USA
Montana Independent Living Project
Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Inc.
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Black Veterans
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Law Students with Disabilities (NALSWD)
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
National Association of the Deaf
National Black Deaf Advocates, Inc.
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Council on Independent Living
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Dysautonomia Research Foundation
National Federation of the Blind
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Guard Association of the United States
National Health Law Program
National Military Family Association
National Minority AIDS Council
National MS Society - Ohio Chapters
National MS Society, Pacific South Coast Chapter
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Capital Chapter
National Rehabilitation Association
New York State Independent Living Council
Next Step
NHMH - No Health without Mental Health
Noble County ARC, Inc.
Northeast Arc
Not Dead Yet
Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
Oklahoma Association of Centers for Independent Living
Optimal Beginnings, LLC
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
PA Mental Health Consumers' Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent to Parent of NYS
Parent to Parent USA
Peer Assistance Services, Inc.
Peppermint Ridge
Perkins
PhilanthropyNow
Pineda Foundation for Youth
Polio Survivors Association
PPI
Purity Care Investments
PXE International
Raising Special Kids
REACH Resource Centers On Independent Living
Recovery Empowerment Network
Rehabilitation International
RESNA
Rolling Start Inc.
Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Sandhills Post-Polio Health Group
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
School Social Work Association of America
Self Advocacy Council of Northern Illinois
Sindh Disabled Development Society
SoCal APSE
Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)
Socio Economic Development Alliance (SEDA)
Southeast Alaska Independent Living

SPEAK Consulting LLC
Special Needs Advocacy Network
Special Olympics
Spina Bifida Association
Statewide Independent Living Council
TASH
Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK)
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
Tennessee Disability Coalition
Tri-State Downs Syndrome Society
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
The American Legion
The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties
The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas
The Arc California
The Arc Cedar Valley
The Arc Michigan
The Arc Noble County Foundation
The Arc of Bristol County
The Arc of Colorado
The Arc of Dickinson
The Arc of Fort Bend County
The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh
The Arc of Illinois
The Arc of Iowa
The Arc of Massachusetts
The Arc of Northern Virginia
The Arc of Opportunity in North Central Massachusetts
The Arc of the US
The Arc of Virginia
The Arc of Toombs County
The Arc Western Wayne
The California Institute for Mental Health
The Center for Rights of Parents with Disabilities
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
The National Council on Independent Living
The National Center of The Blind Illinois
The Starkloff Disability Institute
Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
Topeka Independent Living Resource Center
Touchpoint Group, LLC
Tourette Syndrome Association
Treatment Communities of America
Tri Count4y ILC
Tri-County Association of the Deaf, Inc.
Twin Ports Post Polio Network
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
U.S. Business Leadership Network
United States International Council on Disabilities
Utah Assistive Technology Foundation
Vermont Center for Independent Living
Vermont Family Network
Veterans for Common Sense
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans of Modern Warfare
VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association
Vietnam Veterans of America
Voices of the Heart Inc
Whirlwind Wheelchair International
Women's Refugee Commission
WORK, Inc
World Institute on Disability
Wounded Warrior Project
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

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