

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THOMAS J. DONOHUE  
PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Corker:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region, supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and urges the Senate to offer its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty, subject to the Reservations, Understandings and Declarations (RUDs) submitted by the administration.

The United States is the world leader in developing effective policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal opportunity in the workplace and in society as a whole. The Chamber is proud of the role that it has played in helping to formulate this policy by engaging in cooperative efforts with the disability community. Consistent with these efforts, the Chamber believes that ratification of the Convention will not just lead to greater access and opportunity for individuals with disabilities throughout the world, but will also be beneficial to business.

Indeed, the ratification of the Convention will, among other things, increase international markets for U.S. assistive technology companies, advance equal access opportunities for employees of U.S. companies operating abroad and ease

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international business and leisure travel for individuals with disabilities. Importantly, ratification of the Convention does not require the enactment of any new federal or local laws or regulations, and will not impose any new requirements on American businesses.

For these reasons, the Chamber supports the ratification of the Convention, subject to the RUDs, as a means to promote global acceptance of the rights of individuals with disabilities.

~~Sincerely,~~



Thomas J. Donohue