



October 28, 2013

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chair, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Senator Menendez:

I am writing on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to request your support for the resolution for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Our organization is a human rights and social justice organization with 37,000 members across the United States. Founded to rescue children from Nazi occupied Europe, UUSC has served over 70 years to bring the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to our world community.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a non-discrimination treaty seeking to achieve similar goals as the Americans with Disabilities Act: to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. The CRPD is important to a just society, especially for the 57 million children, elders, veterans and service members with disabilities in the United States. This treaty will ensure that an important American ideal - equal treatment and non-discrimination – becomes a reality around the world and at home. Implementing this treaty will remove barriers and increase access to rehabilitation, employment, housing, services and educational opportunities – all necessary for a life with dignity for each member of our human family.

By ratifying the CRPD, the United States will continue to be a leader in setting the standards for ensuring the human rights of 1 billion individuals with disabilities in the world. Through our ratification, the United States can provide guidance on the implementation of the treaty around the world and strengthen our commitments at home. We believe that the United States ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in this country's best interest and we ask you for your support and leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz  
President and CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee