



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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October 31, 2013

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

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

Dear Senators Menendez and Corker:

On behalf of the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA), I am writing in support of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Our Association is comprised of state, public and private administrators of traumatic brain injury (TBI) services, clinicians, families, consumers and advocates concerned with service delivery for individuals with TBI and their families. Since 1990, we have provided assistance to help states develop, expand and improve rehabilitative and community services and supports for the 2.4 million Americans with TBI.

NASHIA supports the CRPD, which 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 which empower all individuals with disabilities, including brain injury, to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. The United States has long been a world leader in setting the standards for ensuring the human rights of individuals with disabilities through such legislation as the ADA, IDEA, and Sections 503/504 of the Rehab Act. States have similarly enacted non-discrimination legislation to increase accessibility to health care, education, employment, housing, transportation, and community living to empower individuals to live independently and lead productive lives within communities of their choice. It is only fitting that the United States joins other countries to ensure that these rights are afforded to all individuals with disabilities regardless of where they live or in which country they are visiting.

NASHIA asks that you support this treaty and help ensure that the United States joins other countries in addressing this critical issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Vaughn
Director of Public Policy
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cc: Members, Senate Foreign Relations Committee



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