



October 31, 2013

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

The Honorable Bob Corker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Corker,

We are writing on behalf of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC ("Advancing Justice-AAJC") in support of United States ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We are pleased that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is holding hearings on CRPD and submit this letter of support for the hearing record.

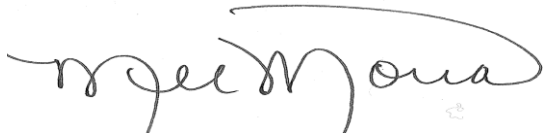
Founded in 1991, Advancing Justice-AAJC works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans, and build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. To achieve our mission, we engage in research, policy advocacy, public education, community capacity-building/mobilization and litigation strategies to advance public policies that enable Asian Americans and other vulnerable communities to reach their full potential and address unfair and discriminatory structures and institutions that systematically deny Asian Americans and other vulnerable communities, including the disability community, their civil and human rights.

The CRPD is a non-discrimination treaty that seeks to ensure that countries across the globe provide people with disabilities with the same rights as everyone else, so that they can live full, satisfying and productive lives. This global treaty was inspired by and embodies the bedrock American ideals that form the basis of the American Disabilities Act (ADA). These principles, so important to us as a civil and human rights organization devoted to protecting and advancing the rights of Asian Americans, include non-discrimination, equality, inclusion in society, accessibility and respect for the inherent dignity of all persons, including persons with disabilities.

The CRPD will benefit millions of individuals with disabilities around the world. In the United States, 18.7 percent of all Americans have some type of disability according to the latest census data, with 6.4% of Asian Americans and 8.8% of Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders having some type of disability. U.S. ratification will benefit these Americans, as well as those veterans, business leaders, scientists, students and other disabled Americans who seek to live, work or travel abroad.

Advancing Justice-AAJC is committed to ensuring that our country maintains its leadership role in promoting the rights and dignity of all people with disabilities. We have a lot of experience—through the ADA, our technology and our creative know-how—to share with the rest of the world. But most importantly, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities we will demonstrate our respect to those Americans disabled through war and conflict and other incidents and can stand with the rest of the world in advancing the civil and human rights of disabled people around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mee Moua", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Mee Moua
President and Executive Director

