



October 31, 2013

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

via electronic mail to

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Corker,

I am writing on behalf of the National Women's Law Center in support of 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.

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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It affirms the importance of promoting, protecting, and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. It furthers principles fundamental to the National Women's Law Center and to our nation, including non-discrimination, equality, inclusion in society, accessibility and respect for the inherent dignity of all persons.

The CRPD will benefit millions of individuals with disabilities around the world. Ratification by the United States will also benefit Americans, particularly those veterans, business leaders, scientists, students and other disabled Americans who seek to live, work or travel abroad. More than 130 nations have ratified the CRPD; the United States should as well, demonstrating its international leadership in promoting the rights and dignity of all people, including people with disabilities. Ratifying the CRPD will allow the United States to bring our experience and knowledge to its implementation and will support the civil and human rights of people with disabilities around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marcia Greenberger'.

Marcia Greenberger
Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Emily Martin'.

Emily Martin
Vice-President and General Counsel

cc: Sen. John Barrasso
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin
Sen. Christopher Coons
Sen. Richard J. Durbin
Sen. Jeff Flake
Sen. Ron Johnson
Sen. Tim Kaine
Sen. Edward J. Markey
Sen. John McCain
Sen. Chris Murphy
Sen. Rand Paul
Sen. James E. Risch
Sen. Marco Rubio
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
Sen. Tom Udall