



North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

3125 Poplarwood Court
Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27604

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr,

I am writing to ask for your consideration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). CRPD is an international human rights treaty that promotes greater access to education, employment, community living and civic participation for people with disabilities worldwide. It is based on existing United States disability rights laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The United States must ratify CRPD in order to participate in UN negotiations regarding its implementation and the setting of international accessibility standards. It is important for the US to be at the table during these negotiations, so that we can advocate for the policies which will work best for Americans with disabilities working or traveling abroad – for example, veterans, Paralympians who represent the United States at international events, and military families with overseas assignments who have children with disabilities. Being at the table will also allow us to find new markets for American products and expertise. American businesses lead the world in accessible product design, and ratifying CRPD would allow those businesses greater access to international markets.

Ratifying the Convention will not harm United States sovereignty or give the UN control over United States law. Ratification will increase the revenue of American companies and make the rest of the world more accessible to Americans with disabilities.

Nineteen veterans' groups, 26 religious groups, 60 businesses, 750 disability organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, and a broad bipartisan coalition of current and former policymakers all support CRPD. Similarly, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities supports opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be independent, productive members of their communities and treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ron Reeve, Chairman

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An independent organization residing within the NC Department of Health and Human Services