



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD International Task Force  
Annual Report for 2011**

2011 ACTIVITIES

The CCD International Task Force spent most of 2011 preparing for the submission of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by the administration to the U.S. Senate for ratification. In early 2011, task force members attended a briefing by the administration on the CRPD “treaty package,” including a discussion of the reservations, understandings, and declarations (“RUDs”) the administration proposes to include as part of U.S. ratification of the treaty. Though task force members did not hear anything objectionable regards to the RUD’s during the presentation, the administration will not share a copy of the treaty package until submitted to the Senate.

Since the briefing, the task force has helped coordinate efforts both among CCD members and the entire task force to increase the chances for quick ratification of the treaty once submitted to the Senate. Specifically, USICD, NDRN, the MS Society, Easter Seals, and DREDF worked on grassroots efforts with affiliates in several key states whose Senators are deemed imported to the ratification effort. USICD and VetsFirst created a sign-on letter for veterans groups in support of the CRPD, and worked to obtain signatures from a variety of veterans groups. The task force further completed a draft CCD sign-on letter in support of quick ratification of the treaty to be circulated to CCD members once the treaty is submitted to the Senate.

On non-treaty related issues, the task force worked jointly with the CCD Rights and Employment Task Forces in sending an amicus letter to support EEOC class certification in a challenge to the State Department’s world wide availability policy for foreign service employees which discriminates against individuals with disabilities. The task force also held a discussion with Judy Heumann, Special Advisor on International Disability Rights at the State Department. Several task force members further commented on proposed new State Department’s standard terms and conditions for domestic federal assistance awards which for the first time specifically mentioned Section 504.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The task force's primary activity for 2012 will be seeking ratification of the CRPD as it is almost assured the treaty will be submitted to the Senate before the election. Other policy priorities, as resources allow, will include work to:

- Ensure equal employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the U.S. foreign service.
- Inclusion of disability rights in United States foreign programs, including physical and programmatic accessibility to comply with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Creation of fair policies which enable individuals with disabilities to travel to and from the United States.

## CO-CHAIRS FOR 2012:

David T. Hutt, National Disability Rights Network  
Deborah Ziegler, Council for Exceptional Children  
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