



Commemorating 40 Years  
Of Disability Advocacy  
1973-2013

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Statement to the  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee on  
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) would like to thank Senators Menendez and Corker for conducting an engaging and in-depth first hearing on the Disability Treaty – known as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The questions posed by Senator Menendez and Senator Corker to the witnesses highlighted the importance of the treaty and the seriousness with which the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee seeks to address concerns with the treaty while re-establishing U.S. leadership on disability rights.

“The Disability Treaty has been a priority of CCD for a long time. Its ratification is long overdue. CCD appreciates Senator Menendez and Senator Corker for addressing all issues of concern, assuring clarity of the facts about the CRPD, and working to bring parties together towards ratifying this treaty,” said CCD Chair Katy Neas, “We look forward to the continued discussion during the next hearing and to a bi-partisan ratification vote in the full senate this year.”

The CRPD has broad support among key stakeholders. Some 85 member organizations of CCD submitted a letter to the Committee that called for the support of a resolution of ratification of the CRPD. More than 20 veterans organizations, including the Vietnam Veterans of America and the American Legion, support U.S. ratification of the CRPD. The business community, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, also supports ratification.

Through ratification of this important treaty, the United States will be better positioned to export our nation’s leadership in disability rights so that children and adults with disabilities and their families across the world can have the opportunity to be full participants in their communities and to ensure that Americans with disabilities do not face barriers that bar them from working or traveling abroad.

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