

Honorable Senators John F. Kerry and Richard G. Lugar
Committee Chair and Ranking Member, Respectively
United States Senate
Foreign Relations Committee
446 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Cc: Honorable Senators Barbara Boxer and Roger F. Wicker, Subcommittee on
International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and
Global Women's Issues
Secretary Hillary Clinton, U.S. Department of State
General James L. Jones, National Security Advisor
Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to the President of the United States

Dear Senators Kerry and Lugar,

This letter is a call from grass roots advocates in the U.S. disability community in support of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We believe the CRPD provides an important framework for advancement of our rights in the U.S. and around the world. By providing for international and national dialogue within a framework developed by UN member states (including the United States), the CRPD encourages each country to develop suitable laws and policies adapted to its own circumstances. People with disabilities in the U.S. hope to benefit from this dialogue to learn as well as to share our own good practices. We also believe there is more work to be done in our own country to achieve full respect for the human rights of all persons with disabilities.

The undersigned individuals and organizations strongly urge the Senate to move quickly to consider and approve ratification of the CRPD, and to do so without any reservations, understandings or declarations that are contrary to the purpose and effect of the treaty, as expressed in its principles of non-discrimination, the freedom to make one's own choices, the independence of persons, respect for diversity, inclusion and participation, equality of opportunities, and accessibility.

Sincerely yours,

Center for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (CHRUSP)
Community Alliance for the Ethical Treatment of Youth (CAFETY)
Freedom Center
Ithaca Mental Patients Advocacy Coalition (IMPAC)
Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights)
Mental Health Empowerment Project

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA)
Not Dead Yet
The Opal Project
People's Health Movement - USA
Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
Three Treaties Task Force of the Social Justice Center of Marin
Voices of Heart
We the People
Vince Boehm
J Clark
Eva Dech
Will Hall
Daniel Hazen
Dohn Hoyle
Lauren Ingnoli
Anita King
Myra Kovary
Irene Lynch
Eileen McGinn
Donna Minkowitz
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