



Civil Rights: CRPD and ADA

FACT SHEET

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The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The CRPD is an international treaty that promotes a more accessible world for people with disabilities, including US citizens who want to travel, learn, or work abroad. The CRPD was inspired by U.S. leadership and based on the ADA. The CRPD would allow our military families who have children with disabilities to accept overseas assignments. The CRPD would promote U.S. business opportunities abroad. The CRPD would create new markets for the many products engineered in the U.S. for people with disabilities.

The CRPD recognizes and protects the important role of the family and specifically highlights the role of parents in raising children with disabilities. The CRPD would not negatively affect the rights of parents to make decisions for their children including the decision to educate them at home. Ratification provides the U.S. an opportunity to play an important leadership role in the development of disability rights around the world without having to change any U.S. laws or add additional costs to its budget.

The CRPD has been ratified by 126 countries. It was signed by the US in 2009, but the Senate needs to ratify the Treaty. In 2012, the Senate fell 5 votes short of the super majority needed for ratification.

Recommendation

The U.S. Senate should ratify the CRPD which is a vital framework for eliminating barriers and discrimination against people with disabilities throughout the world.

Committee of Jurisdiction

Senate Foreign Relations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA was passed in 1990 to end discrimination against people with disabilities. It is a civil rights law that was passed with bipartisan support over 20 years ago. Bills have been introduced that would weaken the ADA by making people wait to challenge discriminatory practices and reduce the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute certain violations of the ADA.

Recommendation

Congress should reject any legislation that would weaken the ADA.

Relevant Committees

House and Senate Judiciary Committees

For more information, please contact The Arc at (202) 783-2229, United Cerebral Palsy at (202) 776-0406, Association of University Centers on Disability at (301) 588-8252, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at (202) 387-1968, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities at (202) 506-5813, or Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered at SABEnation@gmail.com