

Civil Rights: CRPD

FACT SHEET



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Background

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is an international treaty that promotes a more accessible world for people with disabilities, including U.S. citizens who want to travel, learn, or work abroad. The CRPD was inspired by U.S. leadership and is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other U.S. disability laws. It provides that all people with disabilities should have equal rights to access society including areas such as education, employment, travel, and access to the community. If the U.S. ratifies (approves) the CRPD it would improve international travel for people with disabilities including our military families with overseas assignments who have children with disabilities. It would also help promote U.S. business opportunities abroad by creating new markets for the many accessible products engineered in the U.S. for people with disabilities. Without passage of the treaty, our businesses may not have access to international markets due to incompatible accessibility standards.

Some critics claim the CRPD would infringe on the rights of families to educate their children in the manner they decide is best for their family. Actually, 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 of the treaty will provide the U.S. with many opportunities to play an important leadership role in the development of disability rights and accessibility standards around the world without having to change any U.S. laws or add additional costs to its budget.

Over 750 disability organizations, 60 businesses, and 19 veterans service organizations support passage of the CRPD. The CRPD has been ratified and joined by 143 countries. In order for the U.S. to join, the Senate needs to pass the treaty with 2/3 Senate approval (67 votes). In 2012, the Senate fell 5 votes short of the super majority needed for ratification.

Recommendation

The U.S. Senate should pass the CRPD which is a vital framework for eliminating barriers and discrimination against people with disabilities and providing U.S. business with access to disability markets throughout the world.

Relevant Committee

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

For more information, please contact The Arc at (202) 783-2229, United Cerebral Palsy at (202)776-0406, Association of University Centers on Disabilities 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