



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Applauds U.S. Decision to Sign the Treaty on Disability Rights

Washington, D.C. - The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) joins the broader human rights and disability communities in expressing appreciation for President Obama's decision to sign the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The purpose of the CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Members of CCD wrote the previous administration in March 2008 encouraging the United States to join the growing number of nations in signing this important treaty.

"Through this signature, President Obama restores the United States to a position of leadership in the area of disability and human rights, joining 140 other nations who have already signed the Convention," stated Marty Ford, Chairperson of CCD and director of legal advocacy at The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy Disability Policy Collaboration.

"CCD and the disability community view this as a symbol of President Obama's commitment to true equality for individuals with disabilities and will be working closely with the Administration and Congress to secure ratification," said David Hutt, Co-Chair of the CCD International Task Force and an attorney with the National Disability Rights Network.

CCD urges the U.S. Senate to quickly consider and ratify the treaty and fully restore the United States to a global leadership position on disability and human rights. The Convention is already consistent with many U.S. laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and ratification will better ensure protection of disability rights into the future.

CCD is a coalition of over 100 national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

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