



## **ANCOR Urges US Senate Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Please contact your Senators to ask them to vote in support of the treaty during the “lame duck” session that will be convened after the November elections.**

ANCOR strongly supports the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD). Supported by President Obama and a bipartisan group of prominent current and former members of Congress, including Senator McCain, former Senator Bob Dole, Senator Harkin, and former Congressman Tony Coelho, the CPRD is an international treaty that has been ratified by 119 nations that describes the obligations of ratifying countries within the United Nations to promote, protect, fulfill, and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Convention provides a framework for countries to enact and enforce legislation that recognizes the rights of all people with disabilities and is based on our own ADA. Ratification does not require changes to laws in the U.S, but would signal to the world that the U.S. is committed to international standards for disability rights and will play a leadership role in implementation of the treaty obligations. The CPRD also promotes an accessible environment for Americans who work, travel, and study abroad.

### **What is the current status of the treaty?**

The treaty was signed by the U.S on July 30, 2009, and was transmitted to the US Senate for ratification last May. In July, the treaty received a favorable bipartisan report from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (13-6) and now requires ratification by the full US Senate.

### **Is Ratification in the US Senate Assured?**

No. That is why we need your help. Opponents argue that signing the Convention will compromise U.S. sovereignty, and will threaten parental control over children with disabilities.

### **Key Points to make:**

1. The treaty is consistent with our own Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Ratification does not require changes to laws in the U.S, but would signal to the world that the U.S. is committed to international standards for disability rights and will play a leadership role in implementation of the treaty obligations.
3. The CPRD also promotes an accessible environment for Americans who work, travel, and study abroad. Thousands of military service members serve and live

with their families abroad, including children and spouses with disabilities. The CRPD promotes greater accessibility and protection from disability discrimination in these countries.

4. This treaty will not cost the Federal Government any additional funds.
5. This treaty has been reviewed by both Republican and Democratic Attorneys General and by past Counsel to Presidents. They confirm that it does not threaten the sovereignty of the U.S. nor does it require any new legislation to comply with the treaty.
6. This treaty does not limit the rights of parents nor put the UN in charge of parental decisions.
7. This treaty is good for American business and for the world. It will allow us to bring our knowledge of making a society accessible to the whole world. Without it we are just a second class country sitting on the sidelines unable to comment.
8. MOST IMPORTANTLY, this treaty is very important to the U.S. disability community. U.S. leadership, following U.S. ratification of the treaty, will help increase accessibility around the world, directly helping Americans with disabilities who live, work, or travel abroad

**Message:** The disability community supports the CRPD and it is important to have your support. Senator, will you support the disability treaty when it is brought to the Senate floor for ratification?