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The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar:

On behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA) and its nearly 400,000 members, I write to express our full support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We urge that your committee favorably report the CRPD to the full Senate and work toward ratification of the convention in this Congress so that the United States can maintain its status as an international human rights leader.

In 2010, the ABA adopted a resolution calling on the United States to ratify and implement the CRPD. Ratification is essential 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. As the world's historic leader in disability policy, the United States has a duty to share its knowledge and protect the interests of American citizens abroad by joining in the international dialogue on civil rights for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your unwavering leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Susman, Director of the ABA's Governmental Affairs Office, at 202-662-1765 or at Thomas.Susman@americanbar.org.

Sincerely,



Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III