

GEORGE BUSH

January 20, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid✓
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Harry and Mitch,

On July 26, 1990, I signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. It extended fuller access to the American Dream to 43 million Americans with disabilities who previously had been effectively barred from buildings, transportation, and other means to opportunity. The ADA fulfilled a 1986 recommendation from the National Council on Disability titled "Toward Independence," which I personally accepted and committed to implement.

As I noted in my statement that accompanied the signing of that historic bill, previous disability laws and regulations "left broad areas of American life untouched or inadequately addressed." The ADA's universal acceptance today, including Senate passage of the 2008 ADA Amendments Act by unanimous consent, is a tribute to its vision and wisdom.

The United States has the opportunity to take the next step, continue its leadership in disability rights and open the doors of exclusion that shut out people with disabilities around the world by joining the 106 countries

10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE · HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

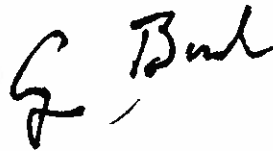
PHONE (713) 686-1188 · FAX (713) 683-0801

that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD is the first international treaty to address disability rights globally. It was inspired in part by the United States' lead in recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Ratification of CRPD would not require any changes to U.S. law. It would have no impact on the federal budget. It would promote U.S. business interests by creating a level playing field for U.S. corporations by requiring businesses abroad to meet accessibility requirements similar to the ADA. It would benefit all Americans with disabilities (including veterans) and their families living, working, or traveling abroad. It would enable the United States to contribute formally its leadership on disability issues to the rest of the world.

Disability rights issues have always enjoyed strong bipartisan support in Congress and by Presidents of both parties. I urge you to continue this proud tradition by supporting prompt U.S. ratification of the CRPD. Let us transform these shameful walls of exclusion into a culture of inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

cc: The President
The Vice President
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator John Kerry
Senator Richard G. Lugar

GEORGE BUSH

January 20, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell ✓
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Harry and Mitch,

On July 26, 1990, I signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. It extended fuller access to the American Dream to 43 million Americans with disabilities who previously had been effectively barred from buildings, transportation, and other means to opportunity. The ADA fulfilled a 1986 recommendation from the National Council on Disability titled "Toward Independence," which I personally accepted and committed to implement.

As I noted in my statement that accompanied the signing of that historic bill, previous disability laws and regulations "left broad areas of American life untouched or inadequately addressed." The ADA's universal acceptance today, including Senate passage of the 2008 ADA Amendments Act by unanimous consent, is a tribute to its vision and wisdom.

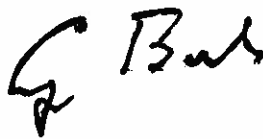
The United States has the opportunity to take the next step, continue its leadership in disability rights and open the doors of exclusion that shut out people with disabilities around the world by joining the 106 countries

that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD is the first international treaty to address disability rights globally. It was inspired in part by the United States' lead in recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Ratification of CRPD would not require any changes to U.S. law. It would have no impact on the federal budget. It would promote U.S. business interests by creating a level playing field for U.S. corporations by requiring businesses abroad to meet accessibility requirements similar to the ADA. It would benefit all Americans with disabilities (including veterans) and their families living, working, or traveling abroad. It would enable the United States to contribute formally its leadership on disability issues to the rest of the world.

Disability rights issues have always enjoyed strong bipartisan support in Congress and by Presidents of both parties. I urge you to continue this proud tradition by supporting prompt U.S. ratification of the CRPD. Let us transform these shameful walls of exclusion into a culture of inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a stylized "B".

cc: The President
The Vice President
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator John Kerry
Senator Richard G. Lugar