

Ron Nabors
Chief Executive Officer
June 11, 2012



The Honorable John Kerry
218 Russell Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:


CBM is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities in the world's poorest countries. On behalf of our stakeholders, I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to people with disabilities and urge you to set a date for a June hearing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The CRPD seeks to ensure that persons across the globe with disabilities are provided with the same rights as everyone else, thereby ensuring that they can live full, satisfying and productive lives. The U.S. has made progress towards the goals of inclusion, equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for Americans with disabilities through our own extensive legislation. The CRPD seeks similar achievements throughout the world through international cooperation and sharing of ideas and implementation methods. By ratifying the CRPD, the U.S. can continue its global leadership in advancing disability rights.

The CRPD would not require any changes to laws in the U.S. as most of the provisions in the treaty are consistent with current US legislation. In a case where existing US law is not consistent with the CRPD, the US can ratify the treaty subject to Reservations, Understandings, or Declarations (RUDs). Furthermore, ratification of the CRPD would not create any additional costs as no change to U.S. law is required.

I would like to express my gratitude that the CRPD has been transmitted to the Senate and thank you for your ongoing support to people with disabilities and support of this important disability treaty.

Warm regards,


Ron Nabors
Chief Executive Officer