



November 27, 2012

Officers
Chair
Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for Women
& Families
Secretary
Barry Rand
AARP
Treasurer
Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees

Executive Committee
Debo P. Adegbile
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
Barbara Arwine
Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law
Arlene Holt Baker
AFL-CIO
Warren David
American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination Committee
Marcia D. Greenberger
National Women's Law Center
Chad Griffin
Human Rights Campaign
Linda D. Hallman
American Association of
University Women
Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees International Union
Benjamin Jealous
NAACP
Michael B. Keegan
People for the American Way
Bob King
International Union, United
Automobile Workers of America
Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters of the
United States
Marc Morial
National Urban League
Mee Moua
Asian American Justice Center
Janet Murguia
National Council of La Raza
Debra Ness
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Priscilla Ouchida
Japanese American Citizens League
Terry O'Neill
National Organization for Women
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
National Congress of American Indians
Mark Perriello
American Association of
People with Disabilities
Dennis Van Roekel
National Education Association
Anthony Romero
American Civil Liberties Union
David Saperstein
Religious Action Center
of Reform Judaism
Shanna Smith
National Fair Housing Alliance
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense & Educational Fund
Randi Weingarten
American Federation of
Teachers AFL-CIO

**Interim Compliance/Enforcement
Committee Chair**
Karen K. Narasaki
President & CEO
Wade J. Henderson
Executive Vice President & COO
Karen McGill Lawson

**Support Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:
Vote No on all Amendments**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 210 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to support U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with no additional amendments. The treaty embodies the American ideals that form the basis of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which has served as model legislation for ending discriminatory practices throughout the world and was a key inspiration for the CRPD.

The CRPD seeks to ensure that countries across the globe provide people with disabilities with the same rights as everyone else, so that they can live full, satisfying, and productive lives. To this end, the CRPD will create greater access for individuals serving, working, traveling, and studying abroad. The Leadership Conference believes that ratification is critical to promoting the ADA's and CRPD's shared principles of equality, nondiscrimination, inclusion in society, accessibility, and respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities in the United States. Furthermore, ratification of the treaty will reflect U.S. commitment to disability rights and core American values such as the dignity of the individual, access to justice, and the right to education.

The Leadership Conference is committed to ensuring that our country maintains its leadership role in promoting the rights and dignity of all people with disabilities. We believe that ratification of the CRPD will allow the U.S. to continue its legacy of global leadership on disability rights. We therefore urge the Senate to continue the bipartisan tradition of supporting human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities, by uniting in support of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with no 1 amendments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact June Zeitlin at Zeitlin@civilrights.org or 202/263-2852.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson
President & CEO

Nancy Zirkin
Executive Vice President