

## CRPD NATIONAL ACTION ALERT



[www.disabilitytreaty.org](http://www.disabilitytreaty.org)

#ISupportCRPD

### THE DISABILITY TREATY NEEDS YOU NOW!

We are fired up that the coalition supporting the disability treaty, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), now includes more than 650 local, state and national disability and allied groups! Now it's time for us to act! Members of Congress are returning next week. There is very little time left in this year to act on the Treaty.

#### **ACTION: CALL YOUR TWO SENATORS: Switchboard number is 202-224-3132**

- **MESSAGE:** Please support the ratification of the disability treaty. This treaty means a lot to Americans with disabilities, their allies, and over 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. Let me know when the hearing has been scheduled. (You can explain briefly that you are a person with a disability, advocate, etc. – the more personal the better!) *Note: It does not matter that Senators Corker and Menendez are not your U.S. Senators – they represent ALL Americans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Advocates from all 50 states can weigh in!*

**ALSO CALL SENATORS MENENDEZ AND CORKER DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9TH!** They are the Chair and Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Committee responsible for scheduling a hearing and markup. Thank them for their support and urge them to schedule a hearing and markup of the CRPD

- Contact Senator Corker:

- Office Number: **202-224-3344**
- E-mail Address: You can contact the Senator through his website form [here](#).
- **Contact Senator Menendez:**
  - Office Number: **202-224-4744**
  - E-mail Address: You can contact the Senator through his website form [here](#).

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE DISABILITY TREATY

- The CRPD or disability treaty is an international agreement put together at the United Nations that reflects the values and standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The CRPD is a tool for other countries to create laws similar to ours that ensure people with disabilities are not discriminated against on the basis of disability
- 132 countries have joined (also known as “ratified”) the treaty but the U.S. has not yet. Ratification in the U.S. will require a 2/3 vote of our U.S. Senate (the process begins with a hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee)
- Ratification will not create any cost or change in U.S. laws. By ratifying the treaty, the U.S. can share its breadth of expertise and knowledge with other countries, making for a more accessible and independent world for all people with disabilities (without ratifying, the U.S. cannot participate in these discussions)
- Check out [this new report created by the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities](#) about why U.S. ratification of the CRPD is important to people with disabilities around the world
- Read more about the treaty at [www.disabilitytreaty.org](http://www.disabilitytreaty.org) and why it’s good for U.S. business, veterans, parents, students and more

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN MYTHS BEING SPREAD ABOUT THE TREATY AND WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

- **Myth #1: Sovereignty will be lost if the treaty is ratified**  
**FACTS:** Sovereignty means that the U.S. is protected as an independent governing body and no outside organization (like the UN) or another country can compel the U.S. to do anything. The same RUD (RUD = legal binding condition added to treaties) is attached to the Disability Treaty that is attached to all human rights treaties passed by the U.S. Senate in order to protect U.S. sovereignty ensuring that in no way can the treaty compel the U.S. to do anything and that any changes in law would have to go through our own traditional legislative procedures.
- **Myth #2: The treaty will require funding and support for abortion**  
**FACTS:** Abortion is not mentioned in the treaty but the treaty opposition leads folks to think it is. There is nothing in this treaty that changes abortion rights in the U.S. It simply states that people with disabilities should have the same access to health care as people without disabilities. It is a statement of non-discrimination NOT a change in U.S. law or policy.
- **Myth #3: The treaty will take away homeschooling/parental rights**  
**FACTS:** The CRPD is a non-discrimination treaty that does NOT change our law but confirms our commitment to disability rights and allows us to impact disability rights globally. That means NO changes to U.S. laws covering parental rights laws or homeschooling. Read [this new article](#) to learn more.

## I CALLED! WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Forward this alert to others in your community to lift up their voices on this important issue.
- Add your voice by [joining the petition!](#)
- Let us know you called, as well as any information you learned [here!](#)
- Visit USCID's new website dedicated to the CRPD: [www.disabilitytreaty.org](http://www.disabilitytreaty.org). You can find one pagers, myth/facts, and access a new community webinar.
- **Like the Facebook page RatifyCRPD:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/RatifyCRPD>

**With your help, we will get this done! Lead on!**