



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Please Support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

What is multiple sclerosis (MS)?

- MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.
- Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted.

Implications of Ratifying the CRPD

- The CRPD aims to **create a more accessible world** where Americans with disabilities—including veterans—will have increased independence to continue to work, serve, study, live or travel abroad.
- Barriers will be reduced for persons with disabilities through changing attitudes and perceptions around the world
- Ratification of the CRPD will **support U.S. business interests** here and abroad, by expanding U.S. markets and leveling the playing field between U.S. and foreign businesses.
 - Ratification is supported by business leaders including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Business Leaders Network and the Information Industry Council.
- The U.S. will have the **opportunity to participate in the CRPD Committee**. The Committee provides non-binding advice and recommendations for countries that ratify the convention.

Request

Please vote to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) when it comes to the Senate floor.

Background on the CRPD

- The CRPD was inspired by the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that was signed into law more than 20 years ago.
- The treaty aims to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities by asserting that they have the same rights as persons without disabilities.
- The CRPD has received support from champions including President George H.W. Bush and former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.
- Over 350 American disability organizations support ratifying this treaty.
 - This includes 21 veterans' groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Wounded Warrior Project.
- The treaty package protects U.S. sovereignty.
 - One declaration states that the CRPD is non self-executing, meaning that the treaty is not judicially enforceable and does not create a cause of action in U.S. courts.
 - One understanding specifies that "disability" and "persons with disabilities" will be defined under U.S. law.
 - The treaty highlights the important role that parents play in raising children with disabilities. Protections exist for parents, including the parental right to homeschool one's child.