**The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**What is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)?**

* The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a UN treaty. It creates an international advisory forum for the sharing of ideas in order to advance accessibility and disability rights worldwide. This treaty encourages and strengthens the global progression towards the goals of inclusion, equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities worldwide.
* 117 nations have already ratified the treaty and told the world that they will work to protect and advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities.
* The United States has NOT ratified the CRPD.

**Why should the United States Support the CRPD?**

* By supporting the CRPD, the United States will reaffirm our serious commitment to equal treatment and non-discrimination for people with disabilities.
* Ratifying the CRPD will set an example for other nations across the globe and will advance disability rights, equality, and justice worldwide.
* Ratifying the CRPD will enable the United States to continue our global leadership and provide guidance and expertise to other countries regarding disability rights and inclusion. We can use our experience with the ADA, IDEA, Olmstead, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to help advance the rights of the disability community worldwide.
* The CRPD is the only international human rights instrument in the world that recognizes deaf people and their language.
* The CRPD will protect US citizens with disabilities abroad, including our veteran population, who live, work, travel, and study outside the US. By supporting the CRPD, the US will encourage other countries to provide the high level of accessibility and inclusion that Americans with Disabilities have at home.

**What the CRPD Does NOT Do**

* The CRPD does NOT dictate how children are taught in schools or how parents raise children.
* The CRPD does NOT infringe on parental rights.
* The laws in the United States that dictate education and parental rights are protected under the CRPD. The United States will NOT be forced to change our constitution or existing laws.
* The CRPD does NOT change the definition of disability. Disability will be defined based on current US laws.

**What You Can Do to Help**

Contact Senator Blunt to let him know that you support ratification of the CRPD. Tell him to VOTE YES.

* Join us Tuesday, December 4, from 1-2 pm at Senator Blunt’s Office for a rally.
  + 7700 Bonhomme #315, St. Louis, MO 63105.
  + Contact Mandy Beals for more information or to RSVP: (314) 289-4301
* Call Senator Blunt’s Office at (314)725-4484 and tell him to VOTE YES on CRPD.