

Dear Senator,

As your constituent, I urge you to support the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** (CEDAW). This international treaty, approved by the United Nations in 1979, provides a universal definition of discrimination against women so that those who would discriminate on the basis of sex could no longer claim that no clear definition exists. Further, it affirms that women’s rights are human rights – and human rights are women’s rights.

CEDAW has been ratified by 189 of the UN member states. Only six nations have not yet approved it - Sudan, Somalia, Iran, two small Pacific island nations of Palau and Tonga, and the United States.

As a leading advocate for human rights, the US has a compelling interest to improve conditions for women. Yet the United States is compromised as a world leader with the failure to ratify CEDAW. CEDAW is a very important component in advancing global women’s rights. It has prompted progress in expanding educational opportunities for women and girls, eliminating gender-based violence, improving marriage and family laws, and increasing women’s political participation.

The time has come for our country to insure that women’s rights are human rights. Please advocate for Senate ratification of CEDAW.

Sincerely,

Name (please print)

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Address, City, State

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