Dear Senator [last name],

As your constituent, I urge you to support the Convention to Eliminate 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 United Nations member states as of January 2021. The United States is one of only six nations that has not yet approved it, putting us in the company of Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Palau, and Tonga. The US is also the ONLY major industrialized nation not to have ratified the treaty.

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 its failure to ratify CEDAW. CEDAW is a very important component in advancing women’s rights globally. 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 ensure that women’s rights are human rights. Please support Senate ratification of CEDAW.

Sincerely,
[Your name]