



The Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

October 6, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As leaders of U.S. organizations that work to support children and families both in the United States and abroad, we strongly urge you to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the U.S. Senate this year.

This is the 25th anniversary of the CRC, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Since its adoption in 1989, the CRC has proven a powerful tool to improve laws and policies for children and families around the world. Although the Clinton Administration signed the CRC in 1995, the treaty has never been submitted to the Senate for consideration.

Americans care deeply about the well-being of all children, and believe in the power of family. Our Nation's failure to join almost every other nation in the world as a party to the CRC tarnishes our global reputation as a defender of children and family. As you once noted, it is "embarrassing" to be in the same company as Somalia as a CRC holdout, and you pledged to review the CRC to reinforce U.S. global leadership in human rights.

Here at home, as you know, our own children face unprecedented exposure to adversity, poverty, violence, abuse, and exclusion. As it has all over the world, the CRC would provide us with a comprehensive framework to analyze, document, and report on conditions for children, including how government agencies consider the views of parents and youth. It would help officials at all levels of government develop policies and programs that better meet the needs of children and families.

Twenty-five years after the CRC came into force, and 19 years since the United States signed it, it is time to take the next step toward ratification.

We urge you to ensure that the CRC is submitted to the U.S. Senate this year. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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