
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel, Brown, Kohl-Welles, Loveland, Fairley, Prentice, Thibaudeau, Snyder, Rasmussen, Wojahn, Shin, Heavey, Jacobsen, Fraser, Patterson, Haugen, Gardner, Goings, B. Sheldon, McAuliffe, Winsley, Costa, Franklin and Eide

Read first time 01/20/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE
5 MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, SECRETARY OF STATE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All
10 Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations
11 General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty
12 on September 3, 1981, and as of December 1997, one hundred sixty-one
13 nations have ratified or acceded to the convention's provisions; and

14 WHEREAS, Although the United States is considered a world leader in
15 human rights, supports and has a position of leadership in the United
16 Nations, was an active participant in the drafting, and is a signatory
17 of the convention, the United States is one of the few nations that has
18 not ratified the treaty; and

19 WHEREAS, The spirit of the convention is rooted in the goals of the
20 United Nations and the United States that seek to affirm faith in

1 fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person,
2 and in the equal rights of men and women; and

3 WHEREAS, The convention provides a comprehensive framework for
4 challenging the various forces that have created and sustained
5 discrimination based on sex against half of the world's population and
6 the one hundred sixty-one nations that have ratified the convention
7 have agreed to follow the convention prescriptions; and

8 WHEREAS, Although women have made major gains in the struggle for
9 equality in social, business, political, legal, and educational fields,
10 there is much more to be accomplished; and through its support,
11 leadership, and prestige, the United States can help create a world
12 where women are no longer discriminated against and have achieved one
13 of the most fundamental of human rights, equality;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
15 States ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All
16 Forms of Discrimination Against Women and to support the convention's
17 continuing goals.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
20 United States, the Honorable Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State,
21 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
23 Washington.

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