



HR0021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are urging the federal government to seek
4 passage of the United Nations treaty, the Convention on the
5 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and

6 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
7 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the
8 United Nations General Assembly, is often described as an
9 international bill of rights for women; consisting of a
10 preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes
11 discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national
12 action to end such discrimination; and

13 WHEREAS, The Convention defines discrimination against
14 women as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the
15 basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or
16 nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women,
17 irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of
18 men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the
19 political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other
20 field"; and

21 WHEREAS, By accepting the Convention, States commit
22 themselves to undertake a series of measures to end

1 discrimination against women in all forms, including: to
2 incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their
3 legal system; to abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt
4 appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women; to
5 establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the
6 effective protection of women against discrimination; and to
7 ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women
8 by persons, organizations, or enterprises; and

9 WHEREAS, Advancing women's human rights worldwide is
10 fundamental to America's national security interests and a
11 cornerstone of the nation's foreign policy; ratification of the
12 Convention would amplify the U.S. voice in defense of women and
13 girls at a time when their rights, even their clothing, are a
14 global battleground; it would send the strongest possible
15 signal that America is back as an international team player on
16 the one hand, while reasserting our proud bipartisan tradition
17 of promoting and protecting human rights on the other; and

18 WHEREAS, Only seven of the United Nations' 193 member
19 countries have not ratified the Convention: Iran, Sudan,
20 Somalia, three small Pacific island countries (Nauru, Palau,
21 and Tonga), and the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, The Convention offers a practical blueprint for
23 action that every country can use to make progress toward

1 ending discrimination; American women enjoy opportunities and
2 status not available to most of the world's women, but few
3 would dispute that more progress is needed, such as in ending
4 domestic violence and closing the pay gap between men and
5 women; and

6 WHEREAS, The Convention would not lead to any automatic
7 changes in U.S. law, and there is no additional cost; the
8 treaty provides a framework for the continuing national
9 dialogue on women's equality, as it does in every country;
10 ratification of the Convention requires 67 United States Senate
11 votes; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we urge the Senate of the United States to ratify the
15 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
16 Against Women; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to United States President Barack Obama and the
19 members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.