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Combined Sections Meeting

February 4-7, 2015
Indianapolis, IN

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the more than 88,000 members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), I write to express support for ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This treaty continues the role of the United States as a global leader on disability rights and extends rights granted to our own citizens to people with disabilities around the world.

APTA commends the purpose of this treaty, as the CRPD embodies the values of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) including equal treatment and non-discrimination in access to rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities. The treaty conforms to the same goals as the ADA and other existing disability laws in United States: to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. As a profession committed to the vision of “transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience” we support this initiative to facilitate equal access to patients we serve across the lifespan.

Physical therapists evaluate and assess individuals who have conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. They develop unique plans of care using treatment techniques that promote the ability to move, reduce pain and restore function. By joining this treaty, the U.S. will make a strong statement of our commitment to these rights being afforded to the over one billion people with disabilities worldwide. We believe U.S. ratification of the CRPD in a bipartisan fashion is in the country’s best interest and ask you for your support and leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities around the world. Please contact Michael Hurlbut, Senior Congressional Affairs Specialist, at michaelhurlbut@apta.org or 703-706-3160, if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Rockar, Jr, PT, DPT, MS
President

PAR:mjh