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State of Washington

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By Representatives Kenney, Green, Cody, Dickerson, Darneille, Kessler, Kagi, Chase, Morrell, and Santos

Read first time 02/17/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO HILLARY CLINTON, SECRETARY
5 OF STATE, AND TO HILDA SOLIS, SECRETARY OF LABOR:

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 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
10 Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General
11 Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty on
12 September 3, 1981, and by August 2006, one hundred eighty-five nations
13 including all of the industrialized world, except the United States,
14 have agreed to pursue the Convention's goals; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States supports and has a position of
16 leadership in the United Nations, was an active participant in the
17 drafting of the Convention and signed the Convention in 1980, but to
18 date has not ratified it; and

19 WHEREAS, The spirit of the Convention is to affirm faith in

1 fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of each person, and
2 in the goal of equal rights, opportunities, and protections for women
3 and girls; and

4 WHEREAS, The Convention provides a comprehensive framework for
5 advancing the rights, opportunities, and protections for women and
6 girls, half the world's population, which framework is implemented by
7 individual countries in ways appropriate to their own countries; and

8 WHEREAS, Much research has found that discrimination based on sex
9 results in less education for girls and women, fewer job opportunities
10 and lower pay for women, slower national economic productivity and
11 growth, and retards the ability of developing countries to grow their
12 economies and contribute to global economic recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, Women in every country play fundamentally important
14 economic roles in their economies and frequently constitute the major
15 economic support for their families; and

16 WHEREAS, Although women in many parts of the world have made major
17 gains in struggles for equality in social, business, political, legal,
18 education, and other fields, much more needs to be accomplished; and

19 WHEREAS, Through its active support and moral leadership, the
20 United States can help create a world where women and girls have equal
21 legal protections, human rights, education and economic opportunities,
22 personal safety, health care, and more;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that President
24 Obama and Secretary Clinton place the United Nations Convention on the
25 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the highest
26 category of priority in order to accelerate the treaty's passage
27 through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full United
28 States Senate with the goal of ratification by the United States; and
29 that the Washington State Legislature urge the Senate Foreign Relations
30 Committee to pass this treaty favorably out of Committee and recommend
31 it be approved by the full United States Senate.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
34 States, Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, Hilda Solis, Secretary of
35 Labor, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
36 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of

1 Washington.

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