
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Kohl-Welles, McCaslin, Franklin, Regala, Fairley, B. Sheldon, Kline, Winsley, Rasmussen, Haugen, Spanel, McAuliffe, Prentice, Brown, Thibaudeau, Jacobsen, Keiser and Eide

Read first time 01/24/2003. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND 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 COLIN L. POWELL, UNITED
5 STATES 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 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 May 2001, one hundred sixty-eight nations
13 including all of the industrialized world, except the United States,
14 have agreed to be bound by the Convention's provisions; 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 is a signatory to the Convention; and

18 WHEREAS, The spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the
19 United Nations and the United States, to affirm faith in fundamental

1 human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the
2 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 the world's population and the
6 nations in support of the present Convention have agreed to follow
7 Convention prescriptions; and

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

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that President
15 Bush and Secretary of State Powell place the United Nations Convention
16 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the
17 highest category of priority in order to accelerate the treaty's
18 passage through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full
19 United States Senate with the goal of ratification by the United
20 States; and that the Washington State Legislature exhort the Senate
21 Foreign Relations Committee to pass this treaty favorably out of
22 Committee and urge it be approved by the full Senate.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
25 States, Colin L. Powell, United States Secretary of State, the
26 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
28 Washington.

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