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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4013

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Green, Cody, Dickerson, Darneille, Kessler,  
and Kagi

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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