

(Date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator _____,

As a proud American and a member of the Zonta Club of _____, I am writing to urge you to give priority to supporting the ratification by the United States of America of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

This Convention is the most comprehensive international agreement on the basic human rights of women. It addresses women's right to equality in education, health care, employment, economics, law, property, family relations, marriage and political participation. Since it came into force as an international treaty in 1979, it has been used effectively throughout the world to advance the status of women as well as to end abuse and discrimination against women in ratifying countries. These rights are the focus of Zonta's Objects.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world not to have become a party to this important legal instrument for advancing women's rights.

Ratifying CEDAW in time for its 30th anniversary in December 2009, will send an important message to the world that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of women and girls both here and abroad is, indeed, a priority concern of the United States.

Your vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and subsequently in the U.S. Senate in support of CEDAW ratification will confirm your commitment to promoting gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination and will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Your Name and address)