

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concern about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and encourage you to un-sign this treaty, which undermines the institution of the family.

As you know, CEDAW was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1979, and went into effect in 1981 upon its ratification by 20 nations. On September 29, 1994, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed CEDAW. However, the full Senate has not ratified this treaty.

From the title of this treaty one would think that it was focused on eliminating true injustices and preventing legitimate cases of discrimination against women around the world. However, the vague language and all-encompassing definition of "discrimination" stated in the treaty belie the true agenda of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. According to CEDAW, "discrimination" is "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition...of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." The broadness of this language encompasses everything from the prevention of sex trafficking of women and girls (which we support) to the demonization of motherhood, gender mainstreaming and the promotion of androgyny, the acceptance of abortion as a form of birth control, and mandatory day care (ideas which we do not support).

The language of CEDAW is highly problematic and U.S. involvement with CEDAW lends American credibility to the radical social agenda of some of the international non-governmental organizations that designed this anti-family manifesto. In previous years, the Committee on the Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women at the United Nations has taken the following actions:

- Pressured China to legalize prostitution.
- Pressured Belarus for establishing Mother's Day.

- Pressured Kyrgyzstan to legalize lesbianism.
- Pressured Ireland to legalize abortion.
- Criticized Ireland for the Catholic Church's influence in public policy.
- Pressured Libya to reinterpret the Koran to fall within CEDAW guidelines.

As the above-mentioned examples clearly attest, CEDAW seeks to impose its broad social agenda on its signatory countries irrespective of individual countries' own laws regarding marriage, the family, abortion, and other social issues, and irrespective of the religious and moral foundations that undergird each country's laws.

Mr. President, we urge you to un-sign the CEDAW treaty, which President Carter submitted to the Senate. It's time for the U.S. to formally oppose CEDAW – to say in no uncertain terms that while we will work to eliminate legitimate forms of discrimination against women, we will not support the radical redefinition of the family and give up American sovereignty in the process.

Sincerely,

Long Pitts

Michael Hart

Paul Brun

Jim Gunn

Barbara Cullen

Henry I Brown J

Sam Johnson

Sue Mizick

Chris Cox

Walter B. Jones

Phil Crane

Jim Cooper

Bill Gutfreund

Robert B. Anderson

John Sullivan

Guilfoyle

Bob Schaffer

Pete Hoekstra

Tom Wilson

Patickett

Chris Smith

John Rain

Ron Paul

Todd Tiahut

**Letter to President Bush re: CETA
June 10, 2002**

**Joseph R. Pitts
Melissa Hart
Paul Ryan
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Henry E. Brown, Jr.
Sam Johnson
Sue Myrick
Chris Cox
Walter B. Jones
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Jim DeMint
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