

November 18, 2010

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law
Committee on the Judiciary
US Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Coburn, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Catholics for Choice is pleased to submit this statement in strong support of ratification of the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women [CEDAW].

Catholics for Choice works to shape and advance sexual and reproductive ethics that are based on justice, reflect a commitment to women's well-being and respect and affirm the capacity of women and men to make moral decisions about their lives. For more than 35 years, CFC has been at the forefront of national and international debates on the intersection of faith, women's health and reproductive rights and justice.

The provisions in CEDAW reflect the values of American Catholics, as well as those of millions of people who subscribe to other faiths or none across this country. CEDAW aims to end trafficking and violence against women, promote equal educational opportunity, improve women's health, end discrimination in the workplace, and encourage women's political participation. Most fundamentally, it recognizes that women's rights are human rights, and that societies that treat women equally are prosperous, stable societies.

The United States' conspicuous absence from the global consensus supporting this convention undermines both the ideals of opportunity and equality set out in CEDAW and this country's ongoing commitments to be a global leader in advancing the rights and health of women and girls. Ratification of CEDAW would signal the United States' commitment to women's progress around the world, and here at home. The Senate should vote to ratify CEDAW now.

Sincerely,



Jon O'Brien
President

PRESIDENT

Jon O'Brien

VICE PRESIDENT

Sara Morello

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Marysa Navarro-Aranguren,
Chair

Sheila Briggs

Patricia Carbine, *Treasurer*

Barbara DeConcini

Susan Farrell

Cheryl Francisconi

Ofelia Garcia

Eileen Moran, *Secretary*

Rosemary Radford Ruether

Albert George Thomas

Marian Stewart Titus

Susan Wysocki

**INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERS**

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir
*Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cordoba, Argentina*

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir en Bolivia
La Paz, Bolivia

Católicas pelo Direito
de Decidir
São Paulo, Brasil

Catholics for a Free
Choice Canada
Toronto, Canada

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir en Chile
Valparaiso, Chile

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir en Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir en España
Madrid, España

Catholics for Choice
Frankfurt, Germany

Católicas por el Derecho
a Decidir
México, D.F., México