

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

Unofficial Copy
D5

1999 Regular Session
9lr0248

By: **Delegates Marriott, Stern, A. Jones, Grosfeld, Nathan-Pulliam, V. Jones,
Mandel, Frush, and Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Judiciary

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of**
3 **Discrimination Against Women**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of
5 State, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the entire U.S. Senate
6 to place a high priority on the ratification of the United Nations Convention on
7 the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

8 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
9 Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December
10 18, 1979, became an international treaty on September 3, 1981, and, by 1998, 160
11 nations including all of the industrialized world, except the United States, have
12 agreed to be bound by the Convention's provisions; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States supports and has a position of leadership in the
14 United Nations, was an active participant in the drafting of the Convention, and is a
15 signatory to the Convention; and

16 WHEREAS, The spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the United
17 Nations and the United States, to affirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the
18 dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Convention provides a comprehensive framework for
21 challenging the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based
22 on sex against half the world's population and the nations in support of the present
23 Convention have agreed to follow Convention prescriptions; and

24 WHEREAS, Although women have made major gains in the struggle for
25 equality in social, business, political, legal, education, and other fields in this century,
26 there is much yet to be accomplished and through its support, leadership, and
27 prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer
28 discriminated against and have achieved one of the most fundamental of human
29 rights, equality; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
2 Maryland General Assembly strongly urges President Clinton and Secretary of State
3 Albright to place the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
4 Discrimination Against Women in the highest category of priority in order to
5 accelerate the treaty's passage through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and
6 the full United States Senate with the goal of ratification by the United States; and be
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly exhorts the Senate Foreign
9 Relations Committee to pass this treaty favorably out of Committee; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly strongly urges the United
11 States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All
12 Forms of Discrimination Against Women and support the Convention's continuing
13 goals; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
15 Legislative Services to the President of the United States; Madeleine K. Albright,
16 United States Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW,
17 Washington, D.C. 20520; Vice President Albert R. Gore, Jr., President of the United
18 States Senate; Senator Jesse Helms, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations
19 Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and to the Maryland
20 Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski,
21 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T.
22 Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny
23 Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella,
24 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.