

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

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2002 Regular Session  
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By: **Delegates Marriott, Benson, Bobo, Cane, Carlson, Cryor, C. Davis,  
DeCarlo, Finifter, Fulton, Gladden, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Hecht, Heller,  
Hixson, Howard, James, V. Jones, Kirk, Mandel, Menes, Montague,  
Nathan-Pulliam, Paige, Patterson, Pitkin, Shriver, Stern, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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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 May 2001, 168  
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 the past  
26 century, there is much yet to be accomplished and through its support, leadership,  
27 and 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 Bush and Secretary of State  
3 Powell 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 a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
11 Legislative Services to the President of the United States; Colin L. Powell, United  
12 States Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington,  
13 D.C. 20520; Vice President Richard B. Cheney, President of the United States Senate;  
14 Senator Joseph R. Biden, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate  
15 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and to the Maryland Congressional  
16 Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office  
17 Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L.  
18 Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G.  
19 Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building,  
20 Washington, D.C. 20515.