

Human Rights Watch Student Task Force
11500 W. Olympic Blvd #441
Los Angeles, CA 90064

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

All across California, we are educating our schools and communities about the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As members of the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force we have hosted a wide range of events to promote awareness of the 20th Anniversary of the CRC. Throughout these events (which are featured on www.hrwtf.org), we gathered signatures from Californians concerned with the fact that the United States has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Enclosed please find 3351 signatures from individuals who support United States ratification of the CRC. We are committed to continuing our education campaign to support US ratification.

We believe that children deserve basic human rights, as spelled out in the CRC. We also recognize that CRC repeatedly emphasizes the importance of families, and the role and authority of parents in providing direction and guidance to their children. Around the world, the CRC has been an important tool to help promote protections for the most vulnerable and marginalized children. The conspicuous absence of the United States, along with Somalia, in ratifying the CRC, undermines our nation's international leadership role for children and for human rights.

We would like to thank you for your support of the CRC and ask you to push for ratification of the CRC during this crucial anniversary year so that the United States can lead the international community in the promotion and protection of children's rights.

Sincerely,

Members of the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force