

# House Joint Memorial 23

Sponsored by Representative RILEY (at the request of Jessica Ritter)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges United States Senate to pass binding legislation ratifying United Nations Convention on Rights of Child.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 To the President of the United States and the Senate of the United States of America, in executive  
3 session assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-  
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the State of Oregon is committed to the health, safety, education and growth of its  
7 children and children everywhere; and

8 Whereas the United States, based on its history and tradition of human rights and responsibil-  
9 ities, must demonstrate its dedication to provide all children with a better today and a better to-  
10 morrow; and

11 Whereas children in Oregon and the United States continue to face considerable hardships, in-  
12 cluding insufficient health care, inadequate educational opportunities and high rates of poverty,  
13 abuse and neglect, hunger, infant mortality, incarceration, adolescent pregnancy, suicide and  
14 firearm-related deaths; and

15 Whereas, according to a recent UNICEF report, the United States has the highest child poverty  
16 rate and the highest child abuse death rate among the world's 24 wealthiest countries; and

17 Whereas every child is entitled to the fundamental necessities of life, including the rights to  
18 food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education, protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation,  
19 and freedom from discrimination; and

20 Whereas due to the vulnerable status of children, it is the responsibility of governments to en-  
21 sure that children receive the level of support necessary for the realization of these rights and  
22 protections; and

23 Whereas each child, for the full and harmonious development of the child's personality, should  
24 grow up in a family environment in which an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding ex-  
25 ists; and

26 Whereas on November 20, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the  
27 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was drafted with the specific purpose of promoting and  
28 protecting the well-being of all children regardless of national boundaries; and

29 Whereas the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by 193 nations that have  
30 used this document to guide the development and implementation of policies and programs that  
31 specifically meet the needs of children and families; and

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       Whereas the United States and Somalia are the only two nations that are members of the United  
2 Nations and that have not also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

3       Whereas the United States formally signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995,  
4 signifying its intent to ratify the Convention; and

5       Whereas the United States should be more cooperative in working with the international com-  
6 munity to address the global needs of children; and

7       Whereas in May 2008, the Portland City Council joined a growing list of cities and states across  
8 the country that have passed resolutions urging the United States to ratify the Convention on the  
9 Rights of the Child; now, therefore,

10 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

11       (1) That the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States to sub-  
12 mit the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the United States Senate for rat-  
13 ification and urges the Senate to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

14       (2) That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the  
15 Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and to both Oregon Senators.

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