

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 07-185

Supporting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Historically, persons with disabilities have been marginalized, stigmatized and deprived of opportunities and freedoms afforded to individuals without disabilities.
- b. On December 13, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a landmark treaty, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to promote and protect the rights of the world's 650 million disabled people.
- c. The Convention was the most rapidly negotiated human rights treaty in the history of international law; it is the first human right treaty of the 21st century.
- d. The Convention will require ratifying nations 'to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities; to promote respect for their inherent dignity" and promote awareness of capabilities of those who are disabled.
- e. 2005 census updates for Multnomah County estimates there are 54,341 people with disabilities aged 18-64 living in Multnomah County or 8% of the population of the county.
- f. 21.5% of adults with disabilities live at or below the poverty level in Multnomah County.
- g. Multnomah County serves many people with disabilities and values its citizens who have disabilities, supporting their rights to dignity, independence and freedom of choice.
- h. Multnomah County complied with the regulations for governments when the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted in 1990. However, stereotypes about people with disabilities are destructive and attitudes about people with disabilities will not change without resisting these stereotypes. Therefore, it is in the best interests of the entire county to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.


The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. Supports the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
2. The Chair and Board will communicate the Multnomah County's support of the Convention to the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the Acting U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Alejandro D. Wolff and urge ratification of the Convention by the United States.

ADOPTED this 6th day of December, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON




Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Maria Rojo de Steffey, Commissioner, District 1