

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. C. R. No. 15

Senator Fedor

Cosponsors: Senators Craig, Yuko, Thomas, Maharath, Sykes, Antonio, Williams

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Senate to ratify the Convention on 1
the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against 2
Women. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of 4
Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a landmark international 5
treaty that affirms the principles of fundamental human rights 6
and equality for women; and 7

WHEREAS, CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations on 8
December 18, 1979; and 9

WHEREAS, Since CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations, 187 10
countries out of 194 member nations have ratified CEDAW, making 11
the United States one of seven member nations not to ratify 12
CEDAW; and 13

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter signed CEDAW on July 17, 14
1980, but the United States Senate has not yet advised and 15
consented on the matter; and 16

WHEREAS, Bicameral legislatures in ten states have endorsed 17
U.S. ratification, including California, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, 18

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as the Connecticut State Senate and the Houses of Representatives in Florida, South Dakota, and Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The United States is among a small minority of countries that have not yet ratified CEDAW, including Iran and Sudan; and

WHEREAS, By the terms of the United Nations Charter, all member states are legally bound to strive toward the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, drafted in substantial part by Eleanor Roosevelt and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, proclaims the entitlement of everyone to equality before the law and to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, including sex; and

WHEREAS, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed by President Carter on October 5, 1977, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the United States with the advice and consent of the United States Senate on June 8, 1992, both translate the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into legally binding form; and

WHEREAS, The United States is contractually obligated, as a ratifying state of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to ensure that its laws "shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status"; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent study by McKinsey and

Company, "women, especially women of color are more likely to 50
have been laid off or furloughed during the COVID-19 crisis," 51
making clear that deep inequalities related to gender still 52
exist in the United States; and 53

WHEREAS, Ratification of CEDAW will not require the United 54
States to change our laws, but instead will only require the 55
United States to submit regular reports to an implementation 56
committee; now therefore be it 57

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 58
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Senate to 59
ratify CEDAW to affirm the principles of fundamental human 60
rights and equality for women; and be it further 61

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Ohio Senate shall transmit 62
duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President 63
Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, each of 64
Ohio's United States Senators, and the news media of Ohio. 65