Sample Letter One: For states currently enforcing a ban on abortion

[Date]

Dear [State legislator’s name or State Governor’s name]:

As a member of the [state] chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), which represents [number] internal medicine physicians, subspecialists and medical students in our state, I am writing to condemn the decision by state officials to enforce an abortion ban in [state]. I urge you to protect individual rights and the patient-physician relationship by working to restore reproductive rights in our state.

ACP believes that individuals have the [right to make their own decisions](https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M22-3316?_ga=2.40096362.971306901.1680639308-2128145418.1680639307&_gl=1*bio09*_ga*MjEyODE0NTQxOC4xNjgwNjM5MzA3*_ga_PM4F5HBGFQ*MTY4MDYzOTMwNy4xLjAuMTY4MDYzOTMwNy42MC4wLjA.), in partnership with their physician or health care professional, on matters affecting their individual reproductive health, including about types of contraceptive methods they use or whether or not to continue a pregnancy. We strongly [oppose](https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/patient_physician_relationship_rev_2012.pdf) medically unnecessary government restrictions on any health care services, and ACP has [joined](https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2022/07/more-than-75-health-care-organizations-release-joint-statement-in-opposition-to-legislative-interference) with over 75 health care organizations to oppose such legislative interference.

With our state now enforcing an abortion ban, I am gravely concerned about the impact on patients, physicians, and the health care system in our state. Banning abortion is likely to [exacerbate](https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2022/06/decision-to-overturn-roe-v-wade-could-worsen-reproductive-health-in-u-s-exacerbate-health-inequities) health inequities in our state, as those with the least access to health care services will bear the brunt of these restrictions. I am especially alarmed by actions taken by some states across the country to criminalize abortion and further restrict access to abortion services in other states, including restrictions on telehealth services and medication-assisted abortions. Patients should never face criminal penalties for obtaining health care services, nor should health care professionals fear criminal or civil punishment for providing evidence-based care. Such punishments harm patients and the integrity of the medical profession, forcing clinicians to deny patients the essential and desired health care they are trained to provide.

[insert any specific stories or data about the reproductive health care landscape and/or impact of abortion restrictions in your state]

Patients should have access to the full array of evidence-based care, including the right to abortion and reproductive care. I am counting on you to take the necessary action to restore access to abortion in our state and repair the devastating harm to the patient-physician relationship.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

Member

[State] Chapter of the American College of Physicians