Sample Letter Three: For states with neither an abortion ban nor statutory protection

[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 encourage you to take action to protect access to abortion and other reproductive health care services in our state.

ACP believes that individuals have the right to make their own decisions, 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 medically unnecessary government restrictions on any health care services, and ACP has joined with over 75 health care organizations to oppose such legislative interference.

With federal protections for abortion rights overturned, more than a dozen states have banned or severely restricted access to abortion services. While [state] is not one of those states set to enforce an abortion ban, we also do not affirmatively protect the right to access comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion, in our state law. It is more urgent than ever that we clearly establish in [state] law the ability of patients to access abortion services or contraception without fear of unnecessary government interference. Clinicians must be able to provide, advise on, and make referrals for these evidence-based services without fear of criminal, civil, or professional penalties.

In addition to codifying in state law the right to access comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion, we must ensure that patients do not face additional barriers or punishment for seeking abortion or other reproductive health care in our state or neighboring states. Seeking or providing abortion services or other evidence-based care should never be a criminal offense, and many states across the country have introduced legislation or taken executive action to protect access to these vital services. We should also safeguard against unnecessary government restrictions on medication-assisted abortion, contraception, and other FDA-approved medications and treatments deemed safe and effective for reproductive health purposes.

[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, contraception, and other reproductive care. I am counting on you to take the necessary action to protect abortion access in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

Member

[State] Chapter of the American College of Physicians