Sample Letter Four: For states that have already protected abortion in state law

[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 your continued commitment to protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health care 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. I am grateful that [state] is one of the 16 states and the District of Columbia that has enacted a state-level law to protect access to comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion. This protection is critically important as many other states are exploring ways to further restrict access to reproductive services, not just abortion but also to contraception, with some states imposing punitive if not criminal measures on those seeking abortions or providing such care. That should never be allowed to happen and we urge state officials to stand firm in their commitment to protect access to abortion and other reproductive health care services.

[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 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