

Letter to the Editor (LTE) Template



Below please find a sample outline for advocates interested in responding to a recent news article using an LTE.

To The Editor:

Everyone should feel safe and supported in their pursuit of building a family. However, [proposed/recent/existing/etc.] laws restricting reproductive health care are a [new and] serious threat/danger to people trying to have a baby with fertility treatments.

[Name recent article] shows the legal confusion created by these [proposed/recently-passed] laws surrounding reproductive health care. The uncertainty surrounding the future of fertility treatments is [creating/have created despair] for those of us who have turned to science to fulfill the dream of a healthy baby. [Alternatively: Laws aimed at restricting safe abortion care access threaten those in pursuit of wanted pregnancies, too].

For many would-be parents, [fertility treatment] is [their/our] last best hope to conceive, carry through a pregnancy and deliver a healthy, deeply wanted child. Healthcare that supports family building cannot be criminalized.

We need [insert name/elected officials] to make it easier — not harder — for people to have their baby and fulfill their dream. Any legislation relating to pregnancy must protect the safety and security of people trying to have a baby.

The best decisions to protect [my/someone's] health and future fertility options are decisions made between [me/an individual] and [my/their] doctor or health care provider. Help us defend our dreams, our health and our hopes to complete our families.

[Insert name of signer]

[Insert location]

Below please find a sample outline for those interested in writing an op-ed for a local or national publication calling on lawmakers to protect their right to build a family.

Start with an anecdote:

Consider opening the op-ed with a personal story (with names omitted if needed for privacy) of a local person or couple who have dreamed of starting a family, have been emotionally devastated by infertility and have turned to IVF or other reproductive technologies to achieve their dearest hope.

State the problem:

Like [name], everyone should feel safe and supported in their pursuit of building a family. However, [proposed/recent/existing/etc.] laws restricting reproductive health care are a [new and] serious threat/danger to people trying to have a baby.

[Name the law and its repercussions]

The legal confusion created by these [proposed/recently-passed] laws surrounding reproductive health care are [creating/have created despair] for those of us who have turned to science to fulfill the dream of a healthy baby, and have created fear that these important medical interventions will be criminalized.

Lay out the argument:

For too many, there are challenges on the journey to parenthood — challenges that can be enormously difficult, painful and isolating to navigate. For many would-be parents, [fertility treatment] is [their/our] last best hope to conceive, carry through a pregnancy and deliver a healthy, deeply wanted child. Healthcare that supports family building cannot be criminalized.

State why this is important:

With [proposed/recent/potential] laws endangering family building, we need [insert name/elected officials] to make it easier — not harder — for people to have their baby and fulfill their dream. Laws aimed at restricting safe abortion care access may inadvertently or perhaps deliberately threaten those in pursuit of wanted pregnancies, too. Our elected

representatives must ensure that laws surrounding pregnancy protect the safety and security of people trying to have a baby. The full range of health care options must remain available to protect those who are trying to build their family.

The best decisions to protect [my/someone's] health and future fertility options are decisions made between [me/an individual] and [my/their] doctor or health care provider. And lawmakers who want to protect family building have committed to protecting all medical options for those trying to have a healthy baby. They are our allies in making parenthood possible.

Call to action:

Tell [insert names of legislators] they can support your dream for a healthy pregnancy and baby by passing laws that protect your wellbeing/the wellbeing of family builders — and vote down those that don't.

- We need allies who make family building possible.
- We need legislators on the side of families.
- Let's remove the obstacles. Let's help create healthy families.

Closing:

It is heartbreaking to face obstacles when you long for a healthy baby. And right now, these dangerous threats to medical care will make it harder or impossible for those [like the people in the opening] who deeply want to build their family. We can't allow legislation restricting medical care to make it more difficult for us to bring our babies home — we need lawmakers to put families first. Help us defend our dreams, our health and our hopes to complete our families.