

# Letter to the Editor (LTE)



## About LTEs

### What is an LTE?

- An LTE is a response to a recent news article, within seven days, that introduces information relevant to the story.
- Most publications have specific guidelines for submitting LTEs that should be referenced prior to submission.

### Characteristics of an LTE

- Typically between 150 - 200 words
- A response to a recent news article
- A strong voice from a credible writer

### Tips for writing a compelling LTE

- Keep it one subject
- Be clear and concise. Keeping it brief reduces the chance the publication will cut content.
- Make references to the newspaper and the article
- Offer a thoughtful response and point of view that challenges the article, supports the argument in the article with additional evidence and insight or uses the article to posit another strong opinion
- Include contact information. Some newspapers will only print a letter to the editor after verifying the author. Newspapers will not share personal information
- Make the LTE exclusive to the publication

### LTE structure

- **Opening:** Grab the reader's attention with an introduction to what you will be talking about with a connection to a recent news article
- **Thesis:** State contradictory or supporting information in response to the current article.
- **Argument:** Explain why the new information that is being presented in the LTE is relevant to readers
- **Conclusion:** Circle back to the thesis to reaffirm it
- **Byline:** Name, title and brief (two-to-three sentences) bio about the LTE author and any affiliations

## LTE Template

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

### Download Template as Word Document

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]