



July 12, 2022

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in strong support of H.R. 8296, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022 and H.R. 8297, the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act of 2022.

With the recent devastating decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we believe Congress must immediately pass legislation to protect and advance access to abortion and reproductive health services. APHA has long advocated for access to the full range of reproductive health services, including abortion, as a fundamental right. APHA's recommendations that abortion be readily available, un-delayed, unburdened by psychiatric consultation and supported by appropriately trained providers were cited in the original *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. That history of advocacy for a person's right to make decisions about their own body has continued to 2022, with APHA submitting a brief in the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, presenting overwhelming objective evidence that abortion is a necessary tool in promoting health and mitigating health threats and arguing that the ability to safely and legally terminate a pregnancy is both an individual constitutional right and a public health concern.

Evidence tells us that access to safe abortion is a key factor in preventing deaths and disability among pregnant people due to pregnancy-related causes. State-level attacks that restrict abortion access lead to worse pregnancy-related health outcomes, further health equity gaps by race, ethnicity, income and location and increase the economic costs associated with exacerbated inequity. In the first six months of 2022, 552 bills to restrict access to abortion have been introduced in the states with 43 having been enacted.

Now, more than ever, the right to abortion needs to be codified in federal law. The Women's Health Protection Act of 2022 would create a statutory right at the federal level for abortion providers to provide abortion care and for patients to receive it, invalidating state-level attacks and protecting the right to abortion. We also strongly support the Ensuring Access to Abortion Care Act which would protect the right of all Americans to travel across state lines to receive lawful abortion care. We urge all members of the House to support these two important reproductive health care bills when they come to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Georges C. Benjamin'.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director