



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

September 20, 2021

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. 3755, the Women's Health Protection Act.

APHA strongly believes that access to the full range of reproductive health services, including abortion, is a fundamental right. 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 laws that restrict abortion access not only lead to worse pregnancy-related health outcomes but also further health equity gaps by race, ethnicity, income and location and increase the economic costs associated with exacerbated inequity. The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson* allowed one of the most severe abortion restriction laws in the country to go into effect in Texas at the beginning of September. This blatant infringement on the right to abortion established by *Roe v. Wade* puts pregnant people at risk and may embolden other states to ramp up their own efforts to restrict access to abortion.

Now, more than ever, the right to abortion needs to be codified in federal law. The Women's Health Protection Act would create a statutory right for abortion providers to provide abortion care and for patients to receive it. Creating a statutory right at the federal level to receive and provide abortion care would invalidate state-level attacks against the right to abortion like the Texas law. The bill would also protect the right to abortion from court threats such as the potential overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

We strongly urge you to protect the right to access abortion care by supporting this important legislation when it comes to the House floor for a vote this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director