



February 28, 2021

United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

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 has long advocated for access to the full range of reproductive health services, including abortion, as 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-level attacks 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 restrictions in the country to go into effect in the state of Texas in September 2021. 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 attacks against abortion and reproductive rights. Already this February, legislative chambers in West Virginia, Arizona and Florida passed laws attempting to ban abortion after 15 weeks.

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 at the federal level for abortion providers to provide abortion care and for patients to receive it, invalidating 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*.

I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3755 when it comes to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

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

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director