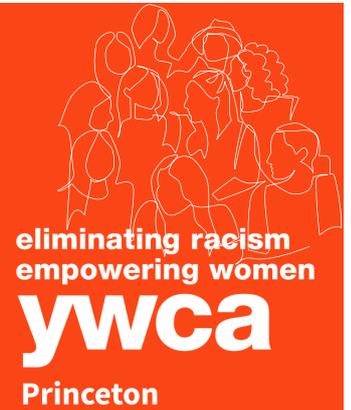


YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAILS



Gun Safety Reform

_To: (INSERT MEMBER OF CONGRESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO)

Subject: Gun Safety Reform

Body:

Dear Representative (OR SENATOR) (INSERT NAME HERE),

My name is (INSERT NAME) and I am writing to you as a concerned constituent of New Jersey's (INSERT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HERE). This election year, citizens will cast their votes for the President, as well as all 435 members of the House of Representatives. As an engaged citizen actively participating in the democratic process this election year, we appeal to you for support in addressing the uneven impact that gun violence has had on communities of color. We strongly advocate for the passage of the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (S.267 H.R. 4836) and request your support in this matter. Gun violence is a pervasive issue that affects not only schools but also the broader community and tends to disproportionately impact communities of color. In 2018, gun homicide was the leading cause of death for Black men and boys aged 15-34 and the third leading cause for Latino men and boys in the same age range.

Research indicates that violence intervention programs, established in collaboration with affected communities, have the potential to significantly decrease gun violence over the long term. However, the funding for these programs remains inadequate, and as a result, they have been compelled to make significant reductions in staff, programming and outreach efforts amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gun violence is complex and multifaceted, yet Congress can play a significant role in saving lives and promoting structural changes in communities by providing consistent support for evidence-based programs. I firmly endorse the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, as it provides funding for critical programs led by community members that have been proven to effectively prevent gun violence.

The detrimental effects of gun violence in our nation and state are both lamentable and financially burdensome. According to current estimates, the cost of medical and criminal justice expenses could reach billions of dollars. Firearm violence can lead to various health issues in the community, which places additional strain on already under-resourced services. Thus, it is crucial to prioritize funding for these programs, not only from a humanitarian perspective but also for the benefit of taxpayers.

As your constituent, I am asking for you to support the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (S.267 H.R. 4836) and support Congress allocating at least \$150 million annually for 10 years to community gun violence prevention and intervention programs.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIPCODE)

Racism as Public Health Crisis

To: (INSERT MEMBER OF CONGRESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO)

Subject: Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Body:

Dear Representative (OR SENATOR) (INSERT NAME HERE),

My name is (INSERT NAME) and I am writing to you as a concerned constituent of New Jersey's (INSERT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HERE). This year, the country will vote on a President and all 435 House of Representative members. While I reside in New Jersey, there are policy and legislation decisions made by Congress that affect citizens all over the country. Today, I urge you to take a stand and pass legislation to declare racism as a public health crisis.

The inequities in the United States are a product of systematic racism and implicit bias in our health care system. In a study by van Ryn and Burke, the National Library of Medicine reports that "Physicians viewed black patients, compared to whites, as less kind, congenial, intelligent, and educated, less likely to adhere to medical advice, and more likely to lack social support and to abuse alcohol and drugs." With assumptions like these from healthcare providers, it is no surprise that black people have the highest late-stage diagnosis and death rate for cancer, black women are three times more likely to die giving birth than white women, and Hispanic children are twice as likely to be uninsured than children of other ethnicities.

It is time to declare racism as a public health crisis. To create a more equitable and healthier future for your constituents and their children free from health care bias or inadequate treatment. I encourage you to promote efforts to amplify issues of racism and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color.

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIPCODE)

Reproductive Justice

To: (INSERT MEMBER OF CONGRESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO)

Subject: Reproductive Justice

Body:

Dear Representative (OR SENATOR) (INSERT NAME HERE),

My name is (INSERT NAME) and I am writing to you as a concerned constituent of New Jersey's (INSERT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HERE). This election year, citizens will cast their votes for the President, as well as all 435 members of the House of Representatives. The debate surrounding abortion is unnecessary, as it is a fundamental aspect of safe and essential healthcare. I am urging your support in the cause of safeguarding women's reproductive rights.

The decision by the Supreme Court to withdraw the right to abortion for all Americans has led to an uncertain future regarding safe abortion access in the United States. In response, legislators nationwide have implemented various restrictions to hinder abortion, such as extreme gestational limits, bans on telehealth provision of medication abortion, medically unnecessary waiting periods, and restrictions on abortion providers, among others.

It is a fact that restrictions are not an effective means of preventing abortions as they often lead to unsafe practices. It only forces individuals to seek out unsafe and illegal alternatives that can put their lives in danger. The implementation of such restrictive measures by lawmakers puts numerous lives at risk and hinders access to essential healthcare services.

New Jersey currently protects reproductive rights, but it is crucial to continue endorsing and voting for officials who are dedicated to upholding these rights. I stand in solidarity with the nation in the ongoing struggle, and I implore you to take swift action in supporting legislation that preserves the rights of individuals seeking abortion care. Access to abortion is a fundamental human right and safe medical procedure. Decisions about reproductive healthcare should be left to individuals, not dictated by lawmakers.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIPCODE)