



*Protecting Health Care Quality, Access
and Choice of Providers*

Template Letter to Your State Legislator

A letter to your state legislators is a valuable tool that provides you with a way to weigh in with lawmakers and other government officials to share your concerns. The template below allows you to personalize your message to impact legislation and highlight your priorities. Remember to clearly and briefly tell your state legislators what you want them to do and include your contact information so your legislators or their staff members can contact you. You can also adapt the letter below to address state officials other than legislators, such as regulatory board members, division directors and other government officials.

Dear **[insert name of representative or senator]**,

As a resident of **[insert your state]** and one of your constituents, I urge you to support my right to choose who will provide my health care from the full range of professionals besides medical doctors (MDs) and doctors of osteopathy (DOs) who are educated, trained, licensed and certified to deliver high-quality, cost-effective care.

I strongly believe that patients are best served when they have access to a team of health care professionals who work together to ensure overall health and wellness, and that patients should be able to choose the type of provider that best suits their individual needs. There are more than 3 million highly qualified health care professionals in the United States who are not MDs or DOs, and it is critically important to me that I have full access to them.

[In this section, tell your legislator about your personal story, including how your health has been positively impacted by a health care professional who is not an MD or DO. Include the type of health care professional you used and the services that were provided to highlight the value in receiving the right care at the right time. Also include information on whether these health care services were covered by insurance and whether you could afford them if there was not adequate coverage.]

Unfortunately, there is an ongoing and self-serving movement by organized medicine and other special interest groups to restrict these valuable providers. This prevents me from attaining the proven safe, high-quality, cost-effective care they offer. I'm certain you would agree that it should be *my right as an individual* to decide who will provide my health care, and no one else's.

Providers such as advanced practice nurses, therapists, audiologists, psychologists, and so many other specialists are indispensable caregivers to millions of Americans, including me. My access to the best health care professional for my own personal needs should be based on concerns about safety, efficacy and positive outcomes, not "turf wars."

Please contact me to let me know your position on protecting the role that health care professionals other than MDs or DOs have in caring for patients like me. I can be reached at **[insert phone number]** or via email at **[insert email address]**. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,