

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Marijuana Legalization

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

Subject: Marijuana Legalization

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, I support the legalization of marijuana and the critical need to destigmatize its use.

As your constituent, I believe our elected representatives must consider the benefits that marijuana legalization brings to our community and society. Marijuana has been a controversial topic for many years, but recent developments across the nation have shown a growing trend toward legalization. It is essential that we, as a society, recognize the potential benefits of legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational purposes.

Destigmatizing marijuana use is equally important in fostering a more inclusive and understanding society. Negative stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding marijuana have hindered open discussions and prevented individuals from seeking help when needed. Black individuals are almost four times more likely to be arrested for simple marijuana possession than white individuals, despite equal usage amongst the races. Legalization coupled with public education campaigns can help dispel myths, promote responsible use, and encourage a more informed and empathetic approach to this issue. I urge you to consider supporting legislation that aims to legalize marijuana and address the importance to destigmatize its usage. By doing so, you will contribute to the well-being of our community and promote fairness, equity, and compassion.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Reproductive Justice

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

Subject: Reproductive Justice

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 reproductive justice 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 erase the constitutional 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. Restrictions force individuals to seek out unsafe and illegal alternatives that can put their lives in danger. The implementation of limitations by lawmakers put 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 on a federal level. 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 safe and medically regulated abortion is a fundamental human right. Decisions about reproductive healthcare should be left to individuals, not dictated by lawmakers.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Safety From Gender Based Violence

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

Subject: Safety From Gender Based Violence Marijuana Legalization

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, I appeal to you for support in addressing gender-based violence.

In 2020, the state of New Jersey witnessed a concerning 6% rise in domestic violence crimes when compared to the previous year. Unfortunately, this trend has resulted in more victims falling prey to this crime and becoming part of the tragic statistic of those who have lost their lives at the hands of their abuser. I urge you to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

This act protects victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. VAWA provides funds for shelters, legal assistance, and hotlines to survivors while strengthening penalties for those committing the crime. VAWA safeguards the rights of immigrant survivors to gain access to essential services, while also reinforcing non-discrimination legislation. Additionally, the act establishes services that cater to the needs of the LGBTQ community. New Jersey is a staunch supporter of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and has allocated funds to bolster VAWA programming. Notably, New Jersey strives to offer comprehensive support to minority communities, recognizing that these groups often face difficulty in accessing such resources. Other states and counties could learn from New Jersey's efforts to ensure inclusivity and accessibility in providing aid to those in need.

As one of your constituents, I respectfully request your continued support for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and your advocacy for this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Affordable and Quality Childcare

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

Subject: Affordable and Quality Childcare

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). In the upcoming election, citizens will vote for the President and all 435 members of the House of Representatives. As an engaged citizen actively participating in the democratic process this election year, I encourage you to support sustainable, affordable, and secure childcare legislation.

Childcare expenses are a significant financial burden for parents across the United States, and in some places, it is not an option due to its unavailability or high cost. These challenges are exacerbated for non-traditional families, communities of color, single parent households, and those working non-standard hours. These marginalized groups of people often face systemic barriers that limit access to affordable, high-quality childcare. Fortunately, the renewal of the Childcare Development Block Grant (CCDBG) aims to address these challenges by improving the affordability and accessibility of childcare for working parents.

All childcare and early learning programs in New Jersey must comply with CCDBG regulations to be eligible for childcare assistance payments. This initiative has the potential to improve the overall health, safety, and quality of childcare while supporting working families. If more children attend affordable and quality childcare centers, the economy of the entire state benefits from more parents in the workforce. I urge your support in assistance in continuing to uphold primary goal of providing secure and affordable childcare services to all.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Same-Day Voter Registration

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

Subject: Same-Day Voter Registration

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, I implore you to advocate for Election Day Registration.

Nearly half of the states in the US provide the convenience of same-day voter registration, allowing eligible voters to register and cast their ballots simultaneously. However, in New Jersey, citizens must register to vote at least three weeks before an election and are not permitted to register and cast their vote on the same day. This requirement has resulted in lower voter turnout, particularly among minority populations and young people.

Same-day registration is an issue of racial justice. The 21-day voter deadline contributes to the exacerbation of racial disparities. This makes it difficult to address voter registration issues in time for voters to participate in upcoming elections, disproportionately affecting people of color. If implemented same-day voter registration could help bridge this gap and ensure that these communities are not disenfranchised on Election Day. Despite proposed legislation, New Jersey has yet to pass same-day voter registration laws.

My urge to you is to prioritize the promotion and protection of democracy by ensuring that voters are not deprived of their rights. It is imperative to pass Election Day voting in New Jersey, especially in 2024, a year with high voter turnout.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAIL



Young Voters' Rights

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

Subject: Young Voters' Rights

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 of this election year, I strongly advocate for the preservation of Young Voters' Rights.

Many cities across the United States have recognized the importance of young voters and have amended laws to allow them to vote in local or school board elections. Studies indicate that 16 and 17-year-olds exhibit the neurological and social maturity essential for responsible voting. Furthermore, they remain as equally informed and engaged in political issues as their older counterparts. Considering the increasing number of young people taking part in social activism and advocating for various causes, including climate change, women's and LGBTQ rights, immigration, and Black Lives Matter, it is vital that they have a voice in a system that directly impacts their lives.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has recently signed the New Voter Empowerment Act, which grants permission to eligible registered voters who are 17 years old and will be 18 on or before the next election to participate in a primary election. This legislative move is a significant step in demonstrating the value of young people and their participation in the political process. It is imperative to continue supporting legislation that encourages youth engagement in politics, as they are the future of the country.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAILS



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 healthcare 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 (four times more likely in the state of New Jersey), 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.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

YWCA PRINCETON ADVOCACY SAMPLE EMAILS



Respect for Marriage Act

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

Subject: Respect for Marriage

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, I appeal to you for your support in The Respect for Marriage Act.

This Act recognizes the validity of marriage between any two individuals, regardless of their race or gender, under federal law. The Respect for Marriage Act also replaces outdated provisions that do not require states to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. Despite being a fundamental moral principle, certain electives continue to challenge laws aligned with this principle.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has signed two important bills that expand marriage rights in the state. The first, S3416, makes marriage equality the law of the land and requires all pre-existing laws to be interpreted in a gender-neutral manner. The second, S-3719, affirms the fundamental right of individuals to marry or enter a civil union with anyone, regardless of race; even if the Supreme Court no longer protects this right under the Federal Constitution, interracial couples in New Jersey will still be protected. As your constituent, I strongly encourage you to support these bills, as they are crucial actions that ought to be implemented without hesitation in our nation.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME, AND SIGNATURE)

(YOUR CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

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, I am asking for your support in addressing the uneven impact that gun violence has had on communities of color.

I 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. I am proud of NJ Senator Cory Booker for sponsoring this bill and hope our fellow NJ representatives support his efforts. 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.

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. 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 ZIP CODE)