

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear President Biden and Secretary Becerra,

We write you to respectfully urge to issue a national emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, known as the “Stafford Act,” and a Public Health Emergency declaration on abortion access pursuant to your authority under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act and the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act). We further call on you to use your authorities under the PREP Act to help ensure continued access to medication abortion across the country.

The Supreme Court’s radical and dangerous decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* has precipitated a full-scale reproductive health crisis across our nation. It has also plunged our health system into a state of uncertainty and upheaval that threatens patients’ lives. Abortion bans can unnecessarily impede lifesaving medical procedures in the event of pregnancy complications or loss. Health experts warn that in the aftermath of this disastrous ruling, the U.S. maternal mortality rate — which is already the highest in the developed world — is certain to rise, with disproportionate impacts on communities of color.

The impacts of this ruling are not limited to health systems in states where abortion is now illegal. In making your determination about issuing a Public Health Emergency declaration, we urge you to also consider the spillover effects of state laws banning abortion on the health systems in neighboring states that protect the legal right to abortion. Abortion providers have reported that patients in need of abortion are seeking care in other states, causing unprecedented strain on limited resources and delaying care for residents.

As we have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, a public health emergency declaration can provide significant new authority and flexibility for a federal emergency response. Relevant activities may include but are not limited to Public Health Services Corps team deployments,

Medicaid State Plan Amendment flexibilities to support safe-haven states, and the ability to accelerate access to new medications authorized for abortion.

We respectfully urge you to quickly issue a National Emergency and Public Health Emergency declaration and use your authority under the PREP Act to protect abortion access.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



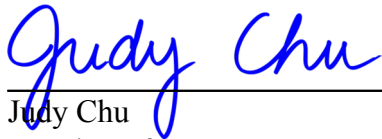
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



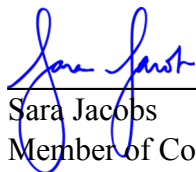
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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



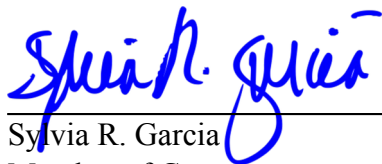
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

*Nanette Diaz Barragan*

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Member of Congress

*Suzanne Bonamici*

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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

*Deborah K. Ross*

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Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

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Member of Congress

*Mark Takano*

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Member of Congress

*Paul D. Tonko*

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Member of Congress

*Carolyn B. Maloney*

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Member of Congress

*Ferrol Nadler*

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Member of Congress

*JOAQUIN CASTRO*

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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

*Ruben Gallego*

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Member of Congress

*Raja Krishnamoorthi*

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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

*Mark Pocan*

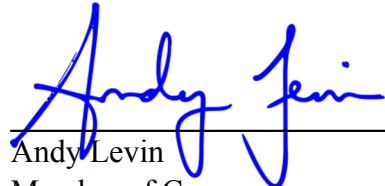
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



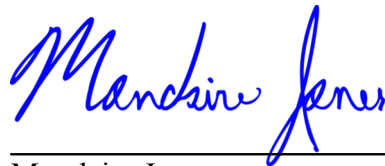
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



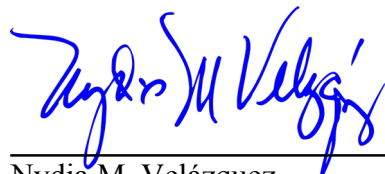
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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



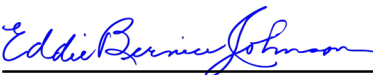
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



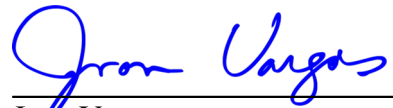
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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



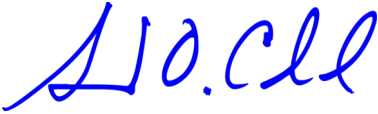
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



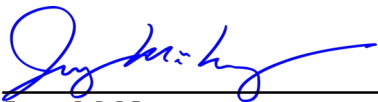
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman  
Member of Congress



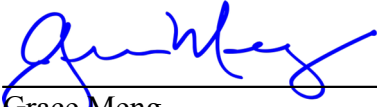
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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

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Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



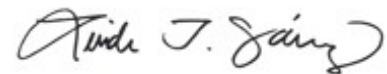
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



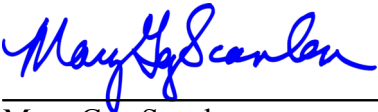
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress






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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress