

Write a Letter to the Editor!

The “Letters to the Editor” section is one of the most widely read sections of the newspaper and often reaches a large audience, so it’s a great place to inform and educate people on the issues you care about. Elected officials often monitor this section of the newspaper and take notice of constituents’ opinions.

Getting Started

Check www.PPActionCA.org for talking points on current reproductive health topics and legislative news.

Contact Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte at advocates@ppmarmonte.org for information about current topics and issues and for tips on information to put in your letter to the editor.

Read the letters section of the newspaper you want to write to. If you are writing about a breaking news issue, check on the publication time of letters: Do the letters discuss events from the day before, the week before? Plan your letter’s message around that time frame.

Make specific references to current events that have been covered in the newspaper. While some newspapers will print general commentary letters, most prefer letters that respond to a specific article. Here are some ways to refer to an article:

"I strongly agree with Senator X's position on the need for a public option in health reform, as expressed in your article, "Add Title Here." ...

Your article, "Add Title Here" discussed access to reproductive health care for women and what we can expect with health care reform legislation in the House and Senate. I think this is a very important component of health reform...

Find out what the word limit is for the newspaper you are submitting to. Keep your letter very concise to avoid the newspaper editing out important sections of your message.

Keep it short and focused on a single argument. Many newspapers have strict length limits and edit letters for space. A concise, single-issue letter has a better chance of making an impact within limited space.

Share your personal story, if you have one. Our experiences are powerful and this is a great way to share them and make an impact.

Sign the letter with your name and address. **Send** your letter by mail, email or fax to the attention of the paper’s editor.

Sample Letter to the Editor:

Your article “Add Title Here” dated xx/xx/2011, talks about how some women will not be afforded the benefits of a new provision that will make birth control available for women with insurance without any co-pays. Women who work for religious institutions should not be penalized because of the beliefs of the institution they work for. All women should be afforded the benefits without the intervention of corporations that want to limit their choices.

The Department of Health and Human Services should act immediately to fix this problem, so that more women, and not fewer, have access to affordable birth control.