

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Kamala D. Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 17, 2021

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

As pro-choice Congressional members, we stand with you in your commitment to ensuring that people across this country have access to the resources and care necessary for their health and wellbeing. We write to urge you to make comprehensive reproductive health care an early priority for your administration, and as such ask that you establish a White House Office of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Wellbeing (OSRHW), under the Domestic Policy Council.

Establishing the OSRHW would move toward creating permanent infrastructure to support people in making safe, responsible, and empowered reproductive health decisions. This office would realize a holistic policy framework to ensure all people have access to both health care and the resources necessary to make safe reproductive and sexual health decisions.

We encourage you to create the office with a clear mandate: the mission of the OSRHW would be to (1) develop a federal strategy for promoting equitable sexual and reproductive wellbeing through the lens of human rights, gender and racial equity, and (2) better coordinate the actions of the many federal departments and agencies whose missions in both foreign and domestic policy impact the sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing, and the financial welfare of people in America and around the world.

To complete its mission, the OSRHW must be both committed to human rights and rooted in the principles of reproductive justice, which focus on the right to “maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”¹ This mission encompasses a wide range of critically-important

¹ SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collaborative, <https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice>.

issues, including health equity, economic growth, education, and voting rights, as well as racial justice and LGBTQ+ liberation. Ensuring reproductive justice is complex and cannot be siloed into a single existing federal agency, department, or office.

In addition, creating this office would assist in establishing the United States as a world leader in addressing gender equality. While these are longstanding issues, the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and structural racism we saw in 2020 have underscored the importance and urgency of this work.


We are encouraged by your administration's commitment to advancing and securing reproductive rights for all women, and especially by your Memorandum on Protecting Women's Health at Home and Abroad.² We urge you to continue building on this early commitment and to enact policies that advance the health and well-being of all people.

In response to the ongoing need for policy initiatives to promote reproductive health and well-being, the Members listed below write to you with broad support for creating the White House Office of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Wellbeing.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Robin Kelly
Member of Congress
Chair, CBC Health Braintrust



Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Pro-Choice Caucus



Congresswoman Diana DeGette
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Pro-Choice Caucus

/s/

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

² The White House, "Memorandum on Protecting Women's Health at Home and Abroad," January 28, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/28/memorandum-on-protecting-womens-health-at-home-and-abroad/>.

/s/

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/

Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

/s/

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/

Theodor E. Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

/s/

Norma Torres
Member of Congress

/s/

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

/s/

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

/s/

André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

/s/

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/

David E. Price
Member of Congress

/s/

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

/s/

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress