



Turn Your Voice Into Influence

A Speak Up! Guide for Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds

CHOOSE ONE ISSUE AND MAKE IT PERSONAL: The most effective letters focus on a single concern. Pick one of the issues listed on the following pages and explain why it matters to you, your family, or your community. Personal stories and local examples are often more persuasive than statistics alone.

SECTION 1: WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Length: 150–300 words

- Be relevant and timely, focus on ONE issue.
- Use a respectful tone. Connect to a personal example or recent news topic.
- Include your full name, address, and phone number for verification.

Simple Formula: Why are you writing? → Your concern → Encourage voters to learn more

SECTION 2: WRITING AN OP-ED

Keep it between 600–750 words

- Share a personal story or local perspective
- Use facts and examples
- End with a clear call to action

Simple Formula: Why I Care → What's at Stake → What Voters Should Know → Call to Action

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT: FOLLOW THE RULES

- Check the outlet's word limit
- Include all requested contact information
- Submit original content and follow submission instructions exactly

COMMON MISTAKE: Ignoring publication guidelines. Strong submissions are often rejected before an editor ever reads them.

FINAL TIP: Editors receive hundreds of submissions. The letters and op-eds most likely to be published are clear and engaging; connected to relevant news or personal stories; respectful and concise; and follow every rule provided by the publication.

Three Key Issues To Write About

Choose ONE concern and make it personal. The most effective letters focus on a single issue.

1. THIS AMENDMENT REMOVES COMMON-SENSE SAFEGUARDS FOR WOMEN AND PROTECTS A FOR-PROFIT ABORTION INDUSTRY:

- Makes it harder to investigate suspicious, coerced, or potentially abusive abortions.
- Reduces oversight and creates a system that fosters the exploitation of young women and girls.
- Weakens the ability of injured women and families to pursue accountability for negligence or malpractice.
- Makes it difficult for injured patients to get justice from the abortionists, opening the door for Big Pharma and a no-guardrails abortion industry to exploit women for profit.
- Limits Virginia's ability to enforce health and safety regulations— giving sweeping constitutional protections to a for-profit abortion industry while reducing oversight and accountability.

Bottom Line: No multi-billion-dollar abortion industry should be allowed to regulate itself. This amendment is simply too extreme because it puts health and safety protections at risk while reducing accountability for a powerful, for-profit abortion industry.

2. THIS AMENDMENT GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN IT NEEDS TO— ATTACKING BASIC PARENTAL RIGHTS:

- Parents will be cut out of life-altering medical decisions involving their children.
- The amendment grants a vague, sweeping 'reproductive freedom' constitutionally protected right to the 'individual,' rather than an 'adult.' That means our children could make major decisions about abortion and other sexual experimentation that will affect them the rest of their lives without a parent's knowledge or consent.
- The amendment eliminates parental consent and notification laws. By creating a new constitutional 'fundamental right,' the amendment will override and END existing commonsense laws that ensure parents are informed before significant medical procedures involving their minor children.

Bottom Line: This amendment goes far beyond abortion and represents a sweeping attack on parental rights. Parents should never be cut out of major medical decisions involving their children, yet this amendment will undermine parental consent and notification protections that Virginia families rely on.

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3. THIS GOES WAY BEYOND ROE—ENSHRINING UNLIMITED LATE-TERM ABORTION AND PUTTING VIRGINIA ON TRACK TO BECOME THE MOST EXTREME ABORTION STATE IN THE COUNTRY:

- Removes existing safeguards on late-term abortions.
- Virginia law already allows later-term abortions in certain circumstances, but requires additional medical review. This amendment eliminates even those remaining safeguards and leaves the decision to the for-profit abortionist performing the procedure.
- Leaves the most dangerous abortion decisions in the hands of the industry that profits from them. Women deserve independent safeguards—not a system that leaves the riskiest abortion procedures in the hands of the industry that stands to profit from them.
- Fails to clearly protect infants born alive during an abortion attempt. Infants born alive after an abortion attempt would not be clearly guaranteed reasonable, life-saving medical care.

Bottom Line: Constitutional amendments should be clear, limited, and carefully considered before becoming permanent law. Instead, this amendment removes important safeguards and pushes Virginia further down the track to being a regional abortion-tourism hub. With fewer protections in place, Virginia will see significant increases beyond the estimated 40,000 abortions already occurring annually, making our Commonwealth one of the most extreme abortion states in the nation.

Supporting Resources:

Ballot Amendment Redliner — <https://tinyurl.com/zh98a2zz>



Talking Points Flyer — <https://tinyurl.com/2p9z8vvd>



State of Abortion — <https://tinyurl.com/m4anhkpm>

