

Sample Letter:

Dear Senator _____:

I am writing to ask for your support in regards to a public health care option. A public option is especially important for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. As President Obama presented his health care plan last month it is important to clarify how this plan will affect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. As Congress and the Obama Administration undertake reform of the American healthcare system to ensure that all people have equitable access to the full continuum of health promotion, prevention, and treatment services, we must be sure to effectively address the needs of distinct populations, especially those with demonstrated health disparities. As our senator, we need your guidance and support on this issue.

A public option that would be available to people most discriminated against in the health care system is necessary. For example, in 2008 25% of LGBT youth were found to be uninsured nationally. A 2009 study performed in New York City found that 20% of gay and lesbian people and 23.5% of bisexual people had no insurance. This public option is extremely important because our community has unique health care needs. For example, LGBT people need to be treated by doctors and medical professionals that have knowledge of the distinct issues that impact our lives. Not all insurance carriers cover doctors that specialize in these issues. By restricting LGBT people to certain plans with specific doctors one cannot ensure that they will receive the correct care and support. Further, many LGBT people have jobs that do not qualify for insurance and it is even more vital that they are able to take advantage of a public option.

I call upon you as our senator to be aware of the necessary services that are needed for our community and advocate for a health care plan that would provide affordable and accessible health care to all that need it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Name