

Letters to the Editor Training

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NETWORK Advocates Training

Why letters to the editor?

- ☀️ **Widely read local content**
- ☀️ **Members of Congress pay attention**
- ☀️ **LTE campaigns create movements**



How do you write an LTE?

Find your local paper's rules

- Google the name of your paper and "letters to the editor"
- Generally 150 – 200 words

Find issue coverage

- Mention their coverage of your issue in your letter

How do you write an LTE?

Start with your qualifications

"As a multi-issue Catholic voter, I cannot stay silent while Congressman Jones vilifies people who are incarcerated in his Feb. 10th op-ed "Criminals Don't Deserve Handouts."

Tell them what you think!

"Federal policies and harsh sentencing laws have led to the U.S. having the highest percentage of people who are incarcerated in the world. A focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation has taken its toll on vulnerable communities by deepening racial divides and reinforcing a cycle of poverty."

Bring it together with a legislative ask

"I pray that Congressman Jones opens his heart and listens to his constituents. We cannot continue to tolerate racism in our criminal legal system or the loss of another generation to mass incarceration. Catholic voters like me expect Congressman Jones to support the EQUAL Act."

Submit!

Find submission guidelines and send

- Found on the same page where you found length rules
- Submission will either be to an email address or an online form

Quick Tips:

- You can write to multiple local papers
- Wait three weeks before repeating

To Recap:

 **Start with your qualifications**

 **Tell them what you think!**

 **Close with a legislative ask**

Let's take a look at
some examples...

Sen. Portman, support tax equity in \$3.5 trillion recovery package

Published: Sep. 18, 2021, 1:22 p.m.

By [Other Voices](#)

I am a lifetime Ohio resident, a Catholic, a mother, and regular voter. I am writing to implore Sen. Rob Portman to support changes in this year's federal budget to create a tax system that rewards work, not wealth, and where everyone pays their fair share.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act gave a household making less than \$25,000 an average tax cut of \$40 compared to an [average savings of about \\$33,000 for the top 1%](#). Last year, 55 of America's biggest corporations [paid no federal income tax](#) despite making over \$40 billion in combined profits.

This missed tax revenue could serve constituents better by making things such as health care, child care, housing, and college more affordable, as planned in the Build Back Better plan. Now is the time to pass a \$3.5 trillion recovery package that puts racial and economic justice at the forefront.

Biden's tax plan is designed to fund this recovery through tax increases targeting the wealthiest corporations and individuals.

Sen. Portman, you have the opportunity to put your constituents first. Now is the time to close loopholes and strengthen our tax code to honor the dignity of work, not the accumulation of wealth.

Katy Schunter,

Highland Heights

Menendez must step up on drug prices

Why are we forcing Americans to choose among necessities of food, rent, transportation and medications? How many people must ration their prescriptions every month?

According to a poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly one in four Americans taking prescription drugs have difficulty affording them. Every day, my brother needs 12 medications, all of which are essential for his heart to function. [Entresto](#) and Xeralto are not available as cheaper generics.

I have the time and energy to pursue some cost savings, but many more people have inadequate information and no access to reliable internet service for research. The still-pending Build Back Better Act has the potential to protect consumers from excessive cost increases by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with drug companies, and imposing a tax penalty if drug companies increase their prices faster than inflation.

We need U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., to [support reasonable drug pricing](#) and allow Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies. I urge New Jerseyans to call him and urge him to act for all Americans and ensure the right to optimum health [care](#). It is a matter of life and death.

Jane Egan, North Haledon

**Now it's your turn to
write!**



To keep in mind while writing...

A note about language:


We point to the lack of “justice” currently in our system by using the term **criminal legal system** instead of criminal justice system. This better reflects how the legal system *fails to provide true accountability and justice* for Black and brown, undocumented, LGBTQ+, and low-income people, and in reality is often a source of harm for members of these communities.

(Source: thepraxisproject.org)

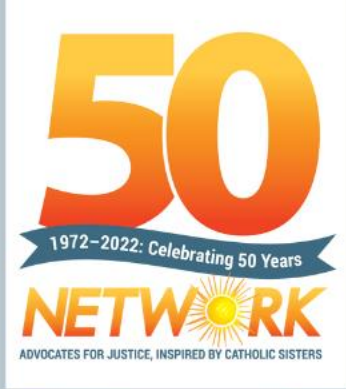
When referring to people who are involved with the criminal legal system, use language that recognizes humanity first like “**people who are incarcerated**” or “returning citizen” or “formerly incarcerated person” not terms that dehumanize such as “inmate,” “felon,” or “prisoner.”

(Source: themarshallproject.org)

Contact us!

 **Would you like us to review your LTE before you submit it to your local newspaper?**

 **Did you get published?**



Questions?

Thank you!

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