



Dear <Name>,

I hope this letter finds you well during these difficult times of COVID-19 and social distancing. My name is **Lisa Arnold** and I am running to be your next State Representative in the 17th Middlesex district. I also hope that you are holding up emotionally. Mental health is something I care about deeply.

A few years ago, during a family vacation, we awoke the first night to my older sister, Lorice, curled up on the living room floor, crying hysterically and completely unaware of her surroundings. The next day, she threatened to shoot my mother-- with a curling iron. It was obvious that Lorice needed help, more than any of us could provide. I went with Lorice to the emergency room, but the doctors were not convinced that she needed to be admitted to a treatment center. I knew the danger Lorice was in. I knew that if she wasn't admitted, her condition could be terminal. In order for my sister to get the services she needed, I had to step in and advocate, persistently, on her behalf until the doctors provided the care that she needed.

That was when I first realized just how broken our system is, and how our healthcare system has failed us. Not everyone has someone that can advocate for them. Not everyone is able to stand up to the doctors who are supposed to have our health and our best interests in mind. The situation has only gotten worse between then and today. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health crisis has become even more urgent. Providers are being overwhelmed with more requests than before. Domestic violence instances are on the rise. People are afraid to use the TeleHealth option because they cannot find a safe and private place to meet with their providers. As your state representative, I will be your advocate for better access to mental health care and stronger funding for mental health services as part of an overall universal health care solution.

I am prepared to do whatever needs to be done to help everyone in our district succeed. In my previous roles, I've always had an open door policy, and as your State Representative, I plan to continue that tradition. My mantra is "if you can't figure something out, come ask me. I'll get you the answer so you can focus on what is most important to you." I have connected people across the organization and across the globe who were working on similar projects. I found missing packages that had been delivered to the wrong state. I even helped a distraught mother find treatment for her teenage daughter who was having a mental health crisis on a Friday before a holiday weekend. I'm used to working behind the scenes, taking on whatever role was needed in order to get things done. As a member of Solidarity Lowell, I have worked to advance social justice issues, advocate for more affordable housing, and demand action on climate change. I have stood side by side with my neighbors against hate and discrimination, and I will continue to fight for these issues as your State Representative. With the Lowell Bike Coalition, I have fought for the design of safer sidewalks and streets, and for a better public transportation system that connects all of our neighborhoods.

It is my passion for problem-solving and working with people of differing opinions and backgrounds to find solutions that makes me the best person for the job. **I ask for your vote in the Democratic primary on Tuesday, September 1st**, so that we can elect a state representative committed to listening to you as a constituent, hearing what is important to you, and taking action. I believe that my first responsibility is to be available, hear your concerns, and help navigate the often difficult bureaucracy that is our local government. I pledge to work full-time for YOU.

Throughout the campaign I will hold regular online office hours, and **I can be reached by phone at (978) 656-1664, or by email at lisa@lisaforstaterrep.com**. Learn more about me at <https://lisaforstaterrep.com>, or on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram ([@lisaforstaterrep](https://www.instagram.com/lisaforstaterrep)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa Arnold
Candidate for State Representative, 17th Middlesex
58 Prescott Street, #11, Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 656-1664
LisaForStateRep.com lisa@lisaforstaterrep.com