For Immediate Release: October 17th, 2023

Media Contact: Emily Wagner, EWagner@NPWH.org

NPWH Joins Fellow Advanced Practice Clinicians in Filing Amicus Brief to Protect Access to Mifepristone

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH), with the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology (APAOG), filed a new amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court to emphasize the profound harms to American health care that would likely flow if medically unnecessary restrictions were placed on access to Mifepristone. The brief, filed in the case of Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine vs. FDA, urges the court to respect the qualifications of Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs) to provide the full spectrum of healthcare services within their scope of practice, including providing safe and effective abortion care.

The Fifth Circuit Court’s decision would override the FDA’s recent moves to increase access to mifepristone and re-impose harmful dispensing and prescribing restrictions. These medically unnecessary restrictions would likely impede access to Mifepristone. For example, the Fifth Circuit’s decision, if affirmed, could legally require that Mifepristone be dispensed in person, potentially blocking mifepristone by mail.

Dr. Shawana Moore, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC, PNAP, FAAN, Board President of NPWH, said:

"NPWH is proud to stand alongside our Advanced Practice Clinician colleagues in filing this amicus brief. The issue at hand not only impacts patients' access to mifepristone, it also sets a precedent for how scientific data and FDA expertise are considered in policy decisions. Our commitment to evidence-based women’s and gender-related healthcare extends beyond clinical practice to advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of patients and respect the authority of healthcare professionals."

Key Points in the Amicus Brief:

- **APCs Education and Certification**: APCs, including Women’s
Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNPs), are licensed to provide a broad range of health services. They have heightened educational standards and rigorous certification and continuing education requirements to do so.

- **APCs and Medication Abortion:** Peer-reviewed studies have long established that APCs provide medication abortions as safely and effectively as physicians, if not more so.

- **APCs and More Complex Care:** As part of their everyday practice, APCs routinely provide healthcare services that are comparable to or more complex than medication abortion. This includes aspiration abortions, miscarriage management, and non-reproductive health-related procedures. APCs also regularly prescribe controlled substances to assist in complicated surgeries and procedures.

The amicus brief was filed by NPWH, ACNM, AAPA, and APAOG emphasizing the collaboration among healthcare organizations in defending evidence-based reproductive healthcare.

**About NPWH:**

NPWH is the professional community for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses who provide women's and gender-related healthcare. We set a standard of excellence by generating, translating, and promoting the latest research and evidence-based clinical guidance, providing high-quality continuing education, and advocating for patients, providers, and the WHNP profession.

Our mission includes protecting and promoting a woman and all individuals' rights to make their own choices regarding their health and well-being within the context of their lived experience and their personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs. Learn more at NPWH.org

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**ADDRESS:** PO Box 15837, Washington, DC 20003  •  **PHONE:** 202.543.9693  •  **WEB:** www.npwh.org  •  **EMAIL:** info@npwh.org