



Statement from the NPWH Board of Directors and CEO on the 25th Annual Premier Women's Healthcare Conference

To the NPWH membership and community,

As leaders of NPWH, the professional association representing women's health nurse practitioners (WHNP-BC) and other APRNs working in women's and gender related healthcare, we want to provide you with an update about our **25th Annual NPWH Premier Women's Healthcare Conference**, scheduled to be held September 29 – October 2, 2022, in Houston, Texas. We are sensitive to the concerns that some members have raised about the location of the conference. Our goal is to be transparent and provide you with context and insight into this complex decision-making process.

We want to share with you the background on how a conference location is decided. NPWH books hotel space for the annual meeting three to four years in advance. We survey the membership and conference attendees about future conference locations, and base location choices on this feedback and other factors. We take into consideration whether the city has hotel space that can accommodate an event our size, is easy to travel to, and offers fair hotel room pricing. All final decisions heavily weigh and incorporate these factors and your feedback.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prohibited our in-person conferences in 2020 and 2021. In order to minimize the financial impact of breaking our contracts and to be fiscal stewards to our organization, we renegotiated the original Houston contract (signed in 2019) to an in-person conference in 2022.

Since that time, we have heard concerns from the membership about holding an event in the State of Texas primarily due to the Texas State Senate Bill 8, which interferes with the provision of, and access to, safe and comprehensive healthcare.

As with all important decisions, the Board of Directors is guided by our [mission statement](#), which includes "*...protecting and promoting a woman's right to make her own choices regarding her health and well-being within the context of her lived experience and her personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs.*"

NPWH [voiced our concerns](#) about the Texas State Senate Bill 8, as it does not align with our mission. This law impedes a woman's right to make her own choices regarding her health and well-being within the context of her lived experience and her personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs.

We are also committed to our [vision](#), which values the advancement of healthcare towards a more just, healthy, and equitable world.



The State of Texas has the second highest number of WHNP-BCs in the country. NPWH is committed to the providers who are caring for Texans every day. We continue to advocate for every patient to have access to the full spectrum of evidence-based clinical care, which includes abortion.

Texas also has the [8th highest mortality rate](#) in the United States. The high-quality, clinical, and evidenced based continuing education NPWH provides at our annual women's healthcare conference is vitally important to the health and safety of Texas women, pregnant people, and children. It is imperative that we support our women's and gender related healthcare colleagues across the country equitably, regardless of the state in which they live.

After much deliberation and careful consideration, we will proceed with our 2022 NPWH Annual Women's Healthcare Conference in Houston, Texas. We believe that this decision serves the best interests of our organization and the profession, while supporting our focus on NPWH's mission and vision.

We hope this communication provides clarity and insight to our values as the professional association for WHNPs and others APRN's focused on women's and gender related healthcare.

We very much look forward to celebrating our now 25th year holding this annual conference September 29 – October 2, 2022. We hope you join us to strengthen your clinical knowledge and support all women across the country with high quality, scientific, evidence based healthcare.

With kind regards,

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health Board of Directors

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