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## National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

### NPWH and ACNM Lead Amicus Brief Highlighting Advanced Practice Clinicians Qualifications to Provide Care Using Mifepristone and Misoprostol

On May 1, 2023, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) submitted an Amicus Brief to the US District Court in the Northern District of Texas in support of the US Supreme Court's "stay" issued in response to the preliminary injunction in the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine vs. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The preliminary injunction would have temporarily blocked nurse practitioners and APRNs who provide women's healthcare, including certified nurse midwives, from prescribing or administering mifepristone. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) partnered with NPWH on this brief.

The Amicus Brief states that advanced practice clinicians are highly qualified to provide medical termination of pregnancy through ten weeks gestation using mifepristone and misoprostol. If allowed to go into effect, the preliminary injunction would set a dangerous precedent for future restrictions of prescriptive privileges for WHNPs and APRNs.

"The ability to provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including medication abortion, is crucial to ensuring that all individuals have access to safe and effective healthcare," said Heather L. Maurer, MA, CAE, NPWH CEO. "The Amicus Brief submitted by NPWH and ACNM highlights the extensive education and training that advanced practice clinicians undergo to provide high-quality healthcare to their patients, including using mifepristone and misoprostol."

Michelle L. Munroe, DNP, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, Interim Chief Executive Officer for ACNM, also emphasized the importance of ensuring access to safe and effective healthcare: "Advanced practice clinicians provide a wide range of healthcare services, including abortion care, and have proven to be safe and effective providers. It is crucial that we do not limit access to safe and effective healthcare based on arbitrary restrictions that have no basis in medical evidence."

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The Amicus Brief focuses on the rigorous education and certification requirements that advanced practice clinicians must meet to provide a broad scope of healthcare services, including abortion care. The brief also highlights the fact that advanced practice clinicians provide safe and effective abortion care, and routinely provide healthcare, including childbirth care, that is equally or more complex than medication abortion. Finally, the brief emphasizes that mainstream medical and public health groups overwhelmingly support the provision of medication abortion care by advanced practice clinicians.

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*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.*