



The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) Reproductive Rights Policy Summary

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Where We Stand: Reproductive Rights The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) mission 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."

Our Long History of Advocating for Reproductive Freedom

This guiding principle has been at the core of NPWH since our origin. In 1980, a group of nurse practitioners working in family planning and reproductive health founded the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health, the precursor to our organization today, "to assure accessible, quality family planning services and reproductive freedom..." For over four decades, NPWH mission and actions have reflected the imperative of an individual's right to choice in all of their health care decisions. NPWH reaffirms our commitment to this guiding principle today.

NPWH respects the right of individuals to make reproductive health decisions free from coercion within the healthcare setting, their home, or their community, and supports policies that preserve the individual's right to autonomy and self-determination. Reproductive choice ensures that individuals have the opportunity to decide:

- When, if, and how to have children
- How they create, define, and interpret family
- Whether to continue a pregnancy for parenthood or relinquishment, or to terminate the pregnancy

The Full Spectrum of Reproductive Health

NPWH recognizes reproductive health as encompassing physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system. We support this framework in all healthcare decision-making throughout the reproductive continuum. This includes:

- ☐ comprehensive sex education
- ☐ contraception
- ☐ fertility assistance
- ☐ pre-pregnancy screening and counseling
- ☐ perinatal care
- ☐ adoption services
- ☐ abortion services
- ☐ prevention, screening, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers
- ☐ counseling and services for sexual health and well-being
- ☐ gender-affirming counseling and treatment
- ☐ immediate care and referrals for sexual and gender-based violence

Equity in Reproductive Health

Reproductive health services must be affordable, available close to home, and inclusive for all individuals. We recognize that barriers to optimal reproductive health services exist, and disproportionately affect people of color, those with lower incomes, those living in rural and frontier communities, LGBTQIA+ individuals and other often marginalized populations. NPWH advocates for policies, practices and evidence-based initiatives that promote equity and reduce disparities in all aspects of reproductive health.

Since our inception, NPWH has stood with patients and our colleagues who provide women's and gender-related healthcare in respecting and defending an individual's rights to make their own reproductive health decisions, and championing equitable access to the full range of reproductive health services.

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