June 30, 2023

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of New Jersey  
Chair, National Governors Association  
444 N. Capitol St. NW, Ste. 267  
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Robin Vos  
Speaker, Wisconsin State Assembly  
President, Executive Committee  
National Conference of State Legislators  
7700 E. First Place  
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Governor Murphy and Speaker Vos:

We, the undersigned organizations, express our concern about the emergence of state laws and regulations restricting the rights and liberties of members of our scientific and research communities.

State actions directed against transgender and other segments of the LGBTQIA+ population not only inhibit civil rights, access to public accommodations, and freedom of speech and expression, they foster exclusion and fear.

Members of our scientific and research communities deserve better. Students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty and administrators should not worry for their well-being and livelihood – or that of their families and colleagues – because of their sex or gender.

To allow all members of our communities to feel welcome and safe, as of the date of this letter, we will not schedule any new conferences or events in any jurisdiction that restricts the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals.
This is not a partisan stance, but an acknowledgement of human rights and recognition that science and research thrive in inclusive and diverse environments.

We respectfully ask state leaders to consider the damage these laws and regulations are having—and will continue to have—on research and innovation within their borders.

Sincerely,

National Postdoctoral Association
American Association of University Women
National Association of Graduate and Professional Students
Women’s Law Project