

PA midwives,

The PA Affiliate of the ACNM joins the growing chorus of concerned voices who denounce the recent removal of resources and documents that provide crucial clinical guidance for midwives and other reproductive and sexual health providers. In accordance with President Trump's recent executive order, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to Federal Government," a significant amount of public health information was removed on January 31, 2025, from the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): contraceptive guidance for health care providers, sexually transmitted infection guidelines, air quality resources for pregnant people, data on HIV and interpersonal violence, vaccine information statements, data on the impact of racism on health outcomes in Black and Brown communities, and clinical guidance for the care of adolescent, transgender, and LGBTQIA+ individuals. The immediate and long-term impacts of removing access to evidence that guides research, life-giving care, and the evolution of our clinical practice in sexual and reproductive health must not be underestimated.

We stand with the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH), the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Public Health Association (APHA) in our belief that the politicization of scientific knowledge risks the integrity of our clinical practice and undermines the ability of individuals seeking midwifery and reproductive healthcare to make informed decisions regarding their health. Additionally, we are gravely concerned about the actions of this administration that threaten the health and safety of immigrant, transgender, and LGBTQIA+ patients. As midwives, we are committed to achieving optimal and equitable health outcomes for the individuals, families, and communities that we serve.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects our right to petition the government, which includes calling, writing, or meeting with legislators to express your opinions and concerns. Elected representatives work for us as constituents and as such are obligated to listen to the people they represent. You can contact their offices via email, phone, or in person, and you are not obligated to share personal identifying information beyond your name and zip Code. We urge all of you to join us in contacting our local, state, and federal legislators to express our concerns and to urge policymakers to partner with healthcare providers to strengthen and protect scientific data, research initiatives, clinical practice, and vulnerable populations. You can find your local PA representatives here: www.legis.state.pa.us. At the end of this email, you will find a sample script from NPWH that provides sample language you can use to engage with your representative.

The PA Affiliate is here to amplify your voices, address challenges to our profession, and act in solidarity with you as you care for the most vulnerable among us. We anticipate that this new

administration will continue to challenge some of our profession's most deeply held values about access to and delivery of healthcare, and we are committed to helping you navigate the complexities of the current political landscape and the ways it may compromise our ability to practice effectively. We invite you to consult these resources from the ACNM and NPWH, which will help to support you in your practice: midwife.org/cdc-resources and npwh.org/page/Resources-and-Toolkits. Please also consider joining our monthly Affiliate meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (contact president@midwivespa.org). You can view the PA affiliate leadership on our website, as well as open leadership opportunities. We look forward to engaging with you at one of our upcoming meetings or events.

In solidarity,

Your PA ACNM Board

NPWH simple script to reach out to your elected representative:

My name is (your name), and I am a midwife and a constituent of (state/district/zip code). I am calling today because I have concerns about (specific issues e.g. recent policy changes affecting sexual and reproductive health, etc.). As a midwife and a healthcare provider in my community, I see firsthand how these issues impact my patients and our community, and I'd like to share why this matter is critical.

(pause for response in conversation or continue with key points about that matter you are addressing in writing).

I appreciate your time and urge (legislator's name) to take action on this issue. Can you share their position or any steps they are taking on this matter?