



## **NASPAG Advocacy Committee Statement opposing legislation prohibiting evidence-based practice**

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In 2021/2022 there have been a record number of bills introduced in state legislatures within the United States targeting sexuality and gender minority persons, specifically those in the gender diverse community. These bills are in direct opposition to the scientific evidence which demonstrates that providing affirming care is the best practice of medicine for gender diverse patients. These proposed bills would make providing lifesaving treatment, such as pubertal blockers and gender affirming hormone therapy, a felony or misdemeanor for healthcare providers. The science referenced in these bills is not representative of the vast amount of literature supporting gender affirming care.<sup>1-9</sup> Legislation aimed at removing or creating barriers to gender affirming care is unethical and rooted in discrimination.

National organizations have recently published statements in support of evidence-based gender affirming care. The North American Society of Adolescent and Pediatric Gynecology (NASPAG) aligns itself with other national medical organizations in support of their opposition to this harmful legislation.<sup>10-13</sup> NASPAG will continue to support its members and all healthcare providers throughout the world who continue to provide lifesaving, evidence-based gender affirming care to all patients. As mentioned in our 2021 position statement on gender affirming care for minors, *“physicians must be able to practice medicine that is informed by their years of medical training, experience, and available evidence freely and without the threat of punishment. Patients and their families, in partnership with their physicians, not policymakers, should be the ones making decisions about what care is best for them.”*<sup>14</sup>

As providers, we not only care for, but care about the well-being of our gender diverse patients. To them we say: we see you, we value you, we stand with you.

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- (10) SAHM ([https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-\(1\)/SAHM-  
Opposition.aspx#:~:text=As%20an%20organization%20that%20advocates,whether%20it%20be%20social%20support%2C](https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-(1)/SAHM-<br/>Opposition.aspx#:~:text=As%20an%20organization%20that%20advocates,whether%20it%20be%20social%20support%2C))
- (11) HHS (<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/gender-affirming-care-young-people-march-2022.pdf>)
- (12) AAP (<https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/19021/AAP-continues-to-support-care-of-transgender>)
- (13) AAMC (<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-gender-affirming-health-care-transgender-youth>)
- (14) NASPAG (<https://www.naspag.org/naspag-gender-affirming-care-for-minors-statement>)