



Policy Statement

Women's Access to Health Services

May 2012

With growing concern about unprecedented legislative efforts to dictate medical care from statehouses, most recently with regard to women's health services, the National Physicians Alliance has adopted the following policy resolution.

Women must continue to have appropriate and meaningful access to all legal reproductive health services. This includes access via private insurance (if this is the dominant means of coverage), **access via a broader government-provided program** (if available) **or through other mechanisms that could facilitate this access.**

During the first quarter of 2012, legislators have introduced 944 provisions related to reproductive health and rights in 45 of the 46 legislatures that have convened this year. Fully half of these provisions would restrict abortion.*

The NPA resolves to:

- Publicly oppose any and all laws that require physicians to provide medically unnecessary care
- Publicly oppose any and all laws that require physicians to provide patients with inaccurate information
- Publicly oppose any and all laws that require patients to undergo unnecessary medical testing—especially laws that remove the need for women to consent to said testing

*Laws Affecting Reproductive Health and Rights: Trends in the First Quarter of 2012:
<http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/updates/2012/statetrends12012.html> (accessed June 25, 2012)

The NPA is a non-partisan, 501c3 organization, founded in 2005. We represent physicians across specialties who, simply put, want to put health back at the center of health care. We refuse all funding from pharmaceutical and medical device companies. Our core program aims include: 1) affordable, quality health care for all; 2) reducing the influence of pharmaceutical and medical device marketing on medical education and clinical decision making; 3) promoting the civic engagement of physicians with their communities.

Learn more about NPA at www.npalliance.org