WPATH WORLD PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSGENDER HEALTH

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WPATH Statement on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, States's Announcement of New Complaint

Washington, DC – Today, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC)'s announcement that it has filed a new complaint with the states of Alaska, Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas:

"This is the second time this year the Trump Administration has abused the authority of its agencies to interfere with Americans' rights to seek and obtain the healthcare that should be decided between a patient and their physician. The first attempt, the FTC's improper requests to WPATH for protected information was struck down by a federal judge. As an end-around, the FTC has now purportedly brought a similarly baseless actual complaint and has enlisted the administration's go-to, obedient state attorneys general to help do its unlawful bidding.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is not a medical provider and has no place interfering with the process of individualized medical decision-making and the FTC also does not have any jurisdiction over WPATH and its noncommercial speech. The state claims have similar factual and legal flaws.

In previously ruling against the FTC, a federal district court has already found WPATH is in a strong position to prove that the FTC is acting out of pure retaliation as part of the federal government's relentless and targeted campaign to undermine gender-affirming care by attacking the First Amendment rights and the independence of professional medical organizations. We expect the same result when we oppose this latest attack on WPATH and its mission to promote evidence-informed care and guidance for doctors and their patients.

For more than 50 years, WPATH has been committed to developing guidelines informed by established scientific standards, expert consensus, and patient centered values. WPATH supports individualized patient care, not a "one size fits all" approach.

Transgender and gender-diverse patients deserve the highest level of care from their medical professionals and the Standards of Care are designed to promote this through open dialogue and clear communication."

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About WPATH: The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, interdisciplinary professional and educational organization devoted to transgender health. Our professional, supporting, and student members engage in academic research to develop evidence-based medicine and strive to promote a high quality of care for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals internationally. We are funded primarily through the support of our membership, and through donations and grants sponsored by noncommercial sources.

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