**AWHONN’s Commitment to Inclusivity in Healthcare**

Last week, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed an executive order banning the use of gender-neutral language in state documents. As a healthcare organization, AWHONN stands by our [Accountability, Belonging, and Culture statement](https://www.awhonn.org/about-us/), which recognizes the importance of providing culturally proficient and gender-affirming care for all women, transgender people, non-binary people, birthing people, and newborns.

AWHONN rejects antiquated, oppressive, and non-scientific practices, ideologies, or beliefs that interfere with the provision of accessible and equitable care. Further, we believe it is the responsibility of government to ensure legal protections are comprehensive and encompass all individuals, irrespective of their biological sex or gender identity.

Traditional language associating childbirth exclusively with women can reinforce rigid gender stereotypes. Acknowledging the diversity of gender experiences promotes a sense of belonging and equal rights for all individuals, fostering social cohesion and ensuring dignified and inclusive healthcare. This benefits not only transgender individuals but also women who may not conform to traditional gender roles.

[Learn more](https://www.awhonn.org/advocate/) about AWHONN’s Public Policy Committee and the annual AWHONN on Capitol Hill.

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