



For Immediate Release: February 3, 2021

Contact: Julia Knox, jknox@npwh.org / 804-307-2513

15 Nursing Orgs to Address Link Between Climate Change & Damage to Health of Women, Pregnant Moms, Infants & Children

*New Nursing Collaborative Will Push for Policy Changes, Improved Clinical Knowledge,
Research & Practice Related to Environmental Impacts*

With growing knowledge of the damaging connection between climate change and the health of millions of women, pregnant mothers and children, 15 national nursing organizations, representing 100,000 healthcare providers, have launched the Nursing Collaborative on Environment and Maternal-child and Women's Health.

Led by the **National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)** and the **Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)**, key organizations from all areas of nursing will engage in a first-of-its kind, focused effort to combat the environmental factors contributing to compromised reproductive health, poor pregnancy outcomes and worsening cardiovascular and respiratory disease in women.

The Collaborative will coordinate policy development with champions of women's health like Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14), who has led legislative efforts to eliminate disparities in maternal mortality through her efforts with the Black Maternal Health Caucus. The Congresswoman's office updated the Collaborative at its inaugural meeting on upcoming legislative efforts, including policies to address the impacts of climate change-related risks on maternal and infant health outcomes.

"I commend the founding members of the Nursing Collaborative on Environment and Maternal-Child and Women's Health for their leadership on such a critically important issue. Climate change-related risks pose a large and growing threat to human health, particularly for moms and babies. As a registered nurse, I know that nurses are uniquely equipped to help identify and respond to these risks. I look forward to partnering with the Collaborative to increase awareness of these issues and advance evidence-policy solutions to save lives and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes," said Rep. Underwood (IL-14).

"This taps into the knowledge, commitment and network of over 100,000 nurses to elevate and prioritize the impact of environmental issues on women's health. The time is right to get this done, with so many of our federal partners poised to act," said Sue Kendig, Policy



Director of NPWH.

The Collaborative will also advance education, research and clinical practice solutions related to environmental health interventions to improve maternal child and women's health outcomes.

"Nurses are powerful champions for all women and children. They are on the frontlines of patient interactions and are trusted voices and advocates who can reach patients and policymakers in new ways," said Heather L. Maurer, CEO of NPWH. **"It is our hope that this collective effort will significantly contribute to eliminating disparities in maternal child health and improving women and children's health overall."**

"The best outcomes can only be achieved when women and their health care providers understand the factors, such as environmental exposures, that can affect their overall health and the health of their children," said Katie Huffling, Executive Director of ANHE. **"We will identify gaps in knowledge of these issues and health outcomes, and work to fill them."**

For more information on the Nursing Collaborative on Environment and Maternal-Child and Women's Health, visit www.npwh.org

~~~

### **Collaborative Participants**

American College of Nurse Midwives  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Certification Corporation  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Philippine Nurses Association of America  
Region III Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (Villanova University) Nurse Run



## **About NPWH**

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) is a nonprofit, professional membership association representing more than 8,000 Women's Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNPs). Advanced practice registered nurses and other healthcare providers rely on NPWH for resources and education that improve women's health and wellness through evidence-based practice. NPWH pioneers policies to address gender disparities and forges strategic partnerships that advance health equity and holistic models of care. For more information, visit [www.npwh.org](http://www.npwh.org)

## **About ANHE**

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments is the only national nursing organization focused solely on the intersection of health and the environment. The mission of the Alliance is to promote healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.