



November 13, 2020

Dear AAPA,

On behalf of the California Academy of PAs, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants, and Washington Academy of Physician Assistants, we urge you to advocate for investigations into the allegations of medical procedures performed on women held at the Irwin County Detention Center without full informed patient consent.

Providing care for immigrant families is a hallmark of practicing medicine in many areas of California, Oregon, and Washington. Those of us directly serving these patients witness the fear and vulnerability within immigrant families in our community every day. This fear increases with each new allegation of misconduct. The stress of living in constant fear harms the health of these community members, leading to many acute and chronic health conditions. As integral members of our communities, our immigrant families deserve to live lives of dignity to seek medical care without apprehension.

It is imperative that we build and maintain the trust of these vulnerable community members in order for PAs to continue to improve health outcomes. This cannot happen if our patients fear that they will be subjected to irreversible medical procedures without their knowledge or consent. Supporting an investigation into these allegations is a key first step in creating a more fair and just healthcare system for all of our community members, regardless of immigration status.

We hope you share our concern regarding this national public health issue. As the national organization representing PAs, we urge you to join the numerous other medical associations who have already spoken out on these reports.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Ben D. Johnson PA-C, President OSPA

Brett Bergman, PA-C, President CAPA

Gabrielle Zecha, PA-C, President WAPA