



## NARA Position Statement

### Political Neutrality:

NARA is committed to adapting to the policies of current and future government administrations. NARA is committed to maintaining political neutrality as a cornerstone of its credibility and integrity. This neutrality allows NARA to effectively serve its members, the public, and government partners across political contexts. NARA's statements and actions are grounded in evidence, science, and the mission of promoting health, safety, and consumer protection across human care regulatory systems. Public statements are made only when they directly advance NARA's mission and values, and they are reviewed for clarity, accuracy, and neutrality before release.

Political neutrality preserves our ability to support government administrations and agencies, irrespective of their political composition. Being politically neutral helps us maintain the distinction between NARAs' work advocating for licensing rules and standards that promote health and safety in regulated settings, and the pressures that many jurisdictions experience from changing leadership and administrations. Neutrality is not an absence of engagement but a commitment to evidence-based, non-partisan advocacy in support of health, safety, and consumer protection. We strive to maintain the trust and confidence of the public, the regulatory field, and our members. NARA provides human care regulatory services and resources that promote consumer protection and safety through prevention, regardless of the political climate. NARA serves as the professional home for human care regulators. To prevent this trust from being undermined, we are committed to remaining politically neutral with our public statements and the actions we take on behalf of our members and clients.

NARA leaders, staff, board members, volunteers, and independent consultants have a responsibility to uphold the principle of political neutrality when representing NARA. Each of us commit that we will not act in a way that undermines or compromises this principle. These obligations do not generally prevent us from being politically active in our private lives. Expressing our personal political opinions outside of work in our own time is unlikely to undermine the principle of political neutrality, provided we do not represent or give the impression that we represent NARA or disclose or utilize confidential information. Consideration needs to be given to public comments by individuals associated with NARA on social media, in public meetings and in public settings, as well as participation in public events, and disclosure of affiliations, where they may be known or to be affiliated with NARA. Comments of a political nature made by individuals representing NARA must have prior approval from the Executive Director and CEO, and must be consistent with NARA's policies and Codes of Ethics, and support NARA's mission. The potential impact on members, partners, and public perception must be evaluated prior to release.



NARA's public comments focus on supporting and representing NARA's mission of *promoting the health and safety of children and adults in regulated settings*. All statements also need to be consistent with our values of *Protection, Integrity, Leadership, Learning* and *Collaboration*. By fostering collaboration it leads to learning, which develops leadership practices, which promote integrity, all with the goal of protection.

### **Health and Safety is Our Priority:**

Licensing and regulation aim to protect through prevention, preventing risks to clients like diseases, fire hazards, injuries, and inadequate supervision. NARA advocates for effective and efficient systems that are not about "more" or "less" rules but instead Identifying the "right" rules to provide a foundation of health and safety protection. Clear, research-based licensing systems are essential to safeguard vulnerable populations while promoting quality care. The use or oversight of regulation does not align with any political philosophy or orientation. With increased calls for more and for less regulation by politicians and policymakers, NARA emphasizes a foundation in regulatory science, providing a strong foundation for developing and implementing licensing standards as well as effective and efficient oversight systems.