



POSITION STATEMENT

Legislation and Regulation that Affect Midwifery Professionals not Certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is a national professional organization that represents certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who are certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). When responding to legislation and regulation that addresses professional midwives who are not certified by AMCB, ACNM, in accordance with the Principles for Model U. S. Midwifery Legislation and Regulation¹ affirms the following:

- Support for legislation and regulation that adheres to the standards of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)² for the education, regulation, and association of midwives.³
- Proposed legislative and regulatory language regarding midwifery professionals should fully comply with the consensus statements issued by US Midwifery Education, Regulation, & Association.¹ Legislation and regulation should define the scope of practice of the midwife based upon the definition and scope of practice established by the midwifery associations and the national certifying bodies, rather than outlining specific allowed or prohibited practices.⁴⁻¹²
- Proposed legislative and regulatory language should define the standards of practice and ethical conduct based upon those established by the professional midwifery association and the national certifying bodies.⁴⁻¹²

Background

ACNM is committed to establishing the midwifery model of care as the standard of care for all women. The principles of this model guide the involvement of midwives in legislative and regulatory actions at the state and federal levels and have resulted in recent efforts to create a more cohesive midwifery presence in the United States. This presence is informed by the global midwifery standards and competencies adopted by the ICM.^{2,3}

ACNM's commitment to promulgate midwifery regulation reflective of ICM standards and competencies is best evidenced by its participation in the US Midwifery Education, Regulation, & Association (US MERA). This association is comprised of representatives of 7 national midwifery organizations: Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), ACNM, AMCB, Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC), Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM), and North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). US MERA has released consensus statements on midwifery

regulation that guide ACNM's policy work and have particular importance for the advancement and increased recognition of the certified professional midwife (CPM) credential.

ACNM establishes and updates core competencies and standards that guide the practice of CNMs and CMs.^{10,11} Other midwifery organizations have developed standards and core competencies for the midwifery professionals they represent.²⁻⁹ These national, standard setting documents should be referenced in legislation and regulation that refer to scope of practice by midwives according to their certifications. Laws and regulations that include specific, practices or procedures do not retain long-term relevance because the evidence base for practice changes constantly. Midwives not certified by AMCB may desire to include specific practices and procedures in legislation and regulation. As long as the legislation or regulation complies with ICM standards and the core competencies and standards of practice that guide the midwifery profession named in the legislation, ACNM will not oppose the legislation or regulation solely on that basis.

REFERENCES

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Source: ACNM Board of Directors

Approved: December 2015