



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Statement from the American College of Nurse-Midwives on Congress' Response to Zika Virus Public Health Emergency**

**Silver Spring, MD** –“The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) expresses its deep disappointment that Congress has been unable to find bipartisan agreement on a response to the Zika virus, which would provide critical protection to pregnant women and their babies.

“The Zika virus is a known cause of serious and lifelong birth defects. The Director of the CDC, Dr. Tom Frieden, has stated that the cost of care for a single child with severe microcephaly caused by the Zika virus could be up to \$10 million. That would mean that even if 100 children were born with this disease, it would result in costs of a staggering \$1 billion, approximately.

“Given the number of women and children in the US that could potentially be impacted by this virus, it is imperative that Congress acts swiftly to reach agreement so a final bill can be signed by President Obama. Rapid action will not only save expenditures in the future, but more importantly, it would reduce the number of babies and families who will have to shoulder the tremendous burdens associated with this disease.

“ACNM strongly urges Congress to delay its planned recess until they have adequately addressed this public health emergency by rapidly directing resources to areas of the country where the virus is most likely to be present.”

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**For more information, please contact Michele Lunsford, ACNM media relations & social media specialist 240-485-1856 or via email at [mlunsford@acnm.org](mailto:mlunsford@acnm.org).**

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association that represents certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. ACNM promotes excellence in midwifery education, clinical practice, and research. With roots dating to 1929, our members are primary care providers for women throughout the lifespan, with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health. ACNM provides research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, establishes clinical practice standards, and creates liaisons with state and federal agencies and members of Congress to increase the visibility and recognition of midwifery care.

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