



ACNM Applauds Congress for Passage of H.R. 6

Legislation Enables Qualified CNMs to Prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatments

October 3, 2018 - The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) would like to thank congressional leaders for their efforts to respond to the ongoing opioid crisis by the passage of H.R. 6, the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act*. This legislation builds on the critical steps taken under the previous *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016* (Public Law 114-198) to increase access to buprenorphine and other medication-assisted treatments (MAT) to those grappling with opioid and substance use disorders.

Among many other key provisions aimed at combating our nation's opioid crisis, H.R. 6 expands eligibility for obtaining a Drug Addiction Treatment Act waiver from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to prescribe MAT to Certified Nurse-Midwives and other advanced practice registered nurses for a period of five years. Section 3201 also makes the current waiver program permanent for nurse practitioners and physician's assistants. While the legislation does not expand prescriptive authority for MAT to certified midwives, ACNM continues to work with Congress on efforts that seek federal recognition for the certified midwife credential.

"Midwives care for a significant proportion of pregnant and postpartum women in rural, underserved and low-resource areas throughout the United States," said ACNM President Susan Stone, CNM, DNSc, FACNM, FAAN. "Granting prescriptive authority of MAT to qualified CNMs will help ensure continuity of care throughout pregnancy and the postpartum stage for women who are struggling with an opioid use disorder. We applaud Congress for recognizing that midwives' ability to prescribe office-based MAT is within our scope of practice and integral to improving outcomes and reducing barriers to care."

ACNM commends House and Senate leadership, the key committees with jurisdiction over this issue and Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) Rand Paul (R-KY), Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) for their commitment to protecting the women, individuals and families midwives serve by ensuring access to evidence-based, life-saving treatment.

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. With roots dating to 1929, ACNM sets the standard for excellence in midwifery education and practice in the United States and strengthens the capacity of midwives in developing countries. Our members are primary care providers for women throughout the lifespan, with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health. ACNM reviews research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, and works with organizations, state and federal agencies, and members of Congress to advance the well-being of women and infants through the practice of midwifery.