



## **ACNM Policy Agenda, 2019-2020**

The mission of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is to support midwives, promote the midwifery model-of-care and advance the practice of midwifery in order to achieve optimal health for women through the lifespan, with expertise in well woman and gynecologic care, promoting optimal pregnancy, physiologic birth, postpartum care, and care of the newborn. ACNM supports the practice of midwives by promoting education, research, and policies that advance clinical excellence, expansion of a robust and diverse midwifery workforce, and equitable legislation, regulation, and institutional policies that establish midwifery as the standard of care for women. All women in the United States should have access to midwifery care, and policies should support and enable the increasing proportion of women who choose midwives as their care providers.

**ACNM is committed to protecting, promoting and advancing the practice of midwifery in the United States. ACNM will support the continued growth of the midwifery profession by advocating for policies that reflect ACNM's standards, expand the midwifery workforce, and increase the visibility and recognition of the value of midwifery care. Specifically, during the 116<sup>th</sup> session of Congress (2019 – 2020) ACNM will:**

### **Work to Reduce Barriers to the Midwifery Model of Care by:**

- Supporting policies that allow Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, certification and experience. ACNM will support state affiliates in their pursuit of legislative and regulatory reforms that seek to eliminate unnecessary and costly supervision and collaborative agreement requirements in the states and efforts that seek to establish equity in Medicaid reimbursement, guaranteed inclusion in Medicaid managed care plans and equity and inclusion within private insurance plans.
- Supporting the Committee for Midwife Advocates of the Certified Midwife (CMAC) in efforts to establish a licensure mechanism for CMs in states that have expressed an interest in advancing legislation to license CMs and in states where CNMs have independent practice (i.e., full practice authority).
- Modernizing policy surrounding facility credentialing and privileging of midwives by pursuing legislation to amend Medicare's Conditions of Participation to include CNMs and CMs in definition of medical staff.

- Working to obtain recognition of the Certified Midwife credential in federal statute.
- Supporting reforms that reduce the incentives for excessive utilization of unnecessary medical interventions and increase the incentives for utilization of measures supporting normal physiologic birth.

**Increase the Midwifery Workforce by:**

- Working to establish a funding stream within the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Title VIII and Title VII programs specific to Advanced Midwifery Education Grants. This funding will go to university-based accredited schools of midwifery and could be used to establish programs for increasing the number of preceptors across the country.
- Ensuring midwives who work in obstetrical training and teaching facilities who oversee services performed by medical residents can be explicitly reimbursed for performing those services by updating Medicare statute to include CNMs as eligible for reimbursement under Medicare's Graduate Medical Education program.
- Establishing a pilot project for reimbursing CNMs/CMs for training and supervising student midwives.
- Charging HRSA with conducting a midwifery workforce study and issuing a report by 2025.
- Supporting policies that increase access to student aid and alleviate burdens associated with student debt, in addition to continued advocacy for funding of midwifery education programs.

**Increase Strategic Communications with Members, Policymakers and Consumers by:**

- Developing a "full practice authority" legislative toolkit for affiliates. Toolkit will include materials to help promote and advance midwifery as practiced by CNMs and CMs across the continuum of care and will also include a "best practices" document related to negotiating with organized medicine on issues related to scope of practice.
- Implementing monthly branding campaign to raise awareness about ACNM, the midwives ACNM represents and the midwifery model of care on Capitol Hill. These messages can be repurposed for use by ACNM affiliates in their messaging to legislators at the state level.
- Developing a biannual Midwives-PAC newsletter for donors showcasing where the member Midwives-PAC contributions go and highlighting the legislation we are supporting.
- Providing "real time" Government Affairs Alerts on issues related to women's and maternal health care.