The American College of Nurse-Midwives asks Congress to Cosponsor the Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (MOMS) Act

Bill Overview
- Addresses maternity care provider shortage with a goal of improving maternal and child health outcomes
- Establishes two new funding streams for accredited midwifery education programs under HRSA’s Title VII Health Professions Training Program and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs
- Funds would be directed toward students who plan to practice in a maternity care provider shortage area and/or are from underrepresented minority groups, preceptors who train midwifery students, and the establishment or expansion of midwifery education programs

Background
- Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. are higher than any other developed nation\(^1\) and are not improving.\(^2\)
- Racial disparities exist within maternal health, especially among Black women. Factors which contribute to these disparities include implicit bias in the delivery of healthcare, a lack of access to health insurance, and social determinants of health such as racism, lack of housing and education, and food scarcity.\(^3, 4\)
- 35% of U.S. counties have no maternity care services, and an additional 11% have limited access.\(^2\)
- Midwives are underutilized in the U.S. health system due to restrictive supervisory and collaborative practice requirements, restrictions in prescriptive privileging and hospital credentialing, and a shortage of preceptors and clinical sites to train midwifery students.\(^5\)
- Although midwives educated and qualified based on international standards can provide 87% of services needed by mothers and their newborns, they only attend approximately 9% of U.S. births.\(^6\)
- Midwives are educated in fewer years and at a lower cost when compared to obstetricians.

Research Findings
- Up to 50% of maternal deaths could be prevented based on quality-of-care improvements at the patient, system, and provider levels.\(^7\)
- Racially concordant midwife-patient dyads can result in increased trust and improved birth outcomes.\(^4, 8\)
Studies have found that women cared for by midwives have excellent birth outcomes, high levels of satisfaction, and lower costs due to fewer unnecessary interventions.\(^5\)

**Potential Solution: Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (MOMS) Act**

- Legislation has been developed by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) to:
  - Scale up and diversify the midwifery workforce.
  - Improve maternal child health outcomes, especially among underrepresented minority women.

**Contact Information**

- To become a cosponsor of H.R. 3352 in the House of Representatives, please contact Debbie Jessup in Rep. Roybal-Allard’s (D-CA) office at Debbie.Jessup@mail.house.gov or Adrianna Lagorio in Rep. Herrera Butler’s (R-WA) office at adrianna.lagorio@mail.house.gov.
- To become a cosponsor of S. 1697 in the Senate, contact Calli Shapiro in Senator Lujan’s (D-NM) office at Calli_Shapiro@lujan.senate.gov or Anna Dietderich in Senator Murkowski’s (R-AK) office at Anna_Dietderich@murkowski.senate.gov.
- For questions about midwives or midwifery-led care or additional information about the bill, please contact Amy Kohl, ACNM Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, at AKohl@acnm.org.
- Find out more about midwifery care [here](#).

**References**