



New Economic Stimulus Law Includes Significant Funding for Midwifery

Signed into law on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, the compromise economic stimulus legislation known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R.1) can provide significant resources to midwives and their practices.

The law included some \$500 million for health care professional training--the ***National Health Service Corps will receive \$300 million for loan repayment and scholarship programs for which certified nurse-midwives are eligible***, which will enable more midwives to have the opportunity to work in an underserved community while reducing their education loan debt; ***the remaining \$200 million will be available to educational programs, including midwifery programs***, to be used to increase the supply of health care professionals in the U.S.

In addition, major funding for midwives and other health care professionals to acquire and utilize certified health information technology (HIT) – including electronic health records software and hardware – remained in the compromise version of the legislation. This section of the law specifically provides substantial resources for midwives to keep pace with health information technology advancements. ***Not all health professionals are eligible for these funds, but nurse-midwives are specifically included in the legislation.***

The ACNM national office staff thanks all of our members and supporters for their advocacy efforts with H.R. 1. Your efforts helped maintain funding in these key areas. The ACNM Government Relations team will keep members and supporters updated as when additional details become available on H.R.1 and its implementation.