

## Midwifery Care Access and Reimbursement Equity Act of 2009

Step-by-Step Guide to Calling your Senators (2) and Representative (1) in Congress:

*(Estimated time for each conversation is 5 min.)*

- a) See the “talking points” on the ACNM Web site ([http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/legislative/Talking\\_Points\\_Midwifery\\_Care\\_Access\\_and\\_Reimbursement\\_Equity\\_Act\\_3\\_26\\_09.pdf](http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/legislative/Talking_Points_Midwifery_Care_Access_and_Reimbursement_Equity_Act_3_26_09.pdf)) which will help with what information you need to share.
- b) Call (202) 225-3121 (Congressional Operator) and ask to speak with the office of your elected officials. When the office answers your call you should identify yourself as a constituent and a CNM/CM/MD/NP/RN/client etc.
- c) Ask to speak with the staff person assigned to Medicare or the Health Legislative Aide. If you can't get through, ask to leave a message with the Health Legislative Aide, not the receptionist.
- d) What are you asking for when you call?
  1. *If you are contacting your Representative:* Tell them you want them to “co-sponsor” the “**Midwifery Care Access and Reimbursement Equity Act of 2009**” (**H.R. 1101**), which was introduced by Representative Ed Towns (D-NY).
  2. *If you are contacting your Senators:* Tell them you want them to “co-sponsor” the “**Midwifery Care Access and Reimbursement Equity Act of 2009**” (**S. 662**), which was introduced by Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND).
- e) Scripted Message:

“As a midwife, I seek equitable reimbursement for the services I provide women under the Medicare program. The current 35% reimbursement disparity under Medicare denies women access to certified nurse-midwives and their services. As part of the Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP Act) the House of Representatives passed this legislation in August 2007. At that time the legislation was scored (meaning analyzed) by the Congressional Budget Office and found to have no significant cost (or budget-neutral). This is due to the fact that midwifery is a relatively small, yet essential, benefit for women within the Medicare program. The Senate failed to pass the legislation during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Under the Medicare program, certified nurse-midwives provide obstetrical care for women of childbearing age who are disabled. Additionally, midwives provide primary care and well women services to senior women.”
- f) *Repeat the message in your conclusion:*
  - 1) If you are talking with your Representative, ask them to “**co-sponsor**” **H.R. 1101**.
  - 2) If you are talking with your Senator, ask them to “**co-sponsor**” **S. 662**.
- g) Thank them for taking the time to consider this important public health issue.
- h) *Don't panic!!* There will probably be questions to which you do not know the answer, that's okay. Tell them to contact ACNM's Federal Lobbyist, Patrick Cooney, at 202-347-0034 or [patrick@federalgrp.com](mailto:patrick@federalgrp.com).

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