

# American Association of Birth Centers

*America's Birth Center Resource*



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March 1, 2006

Deanne Williams, CNM, MS, FACNM  
Executive Director  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 150  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374

Dear Deanne:

The American Association of Birth Centers is pleased to support the ACNM's REDUCE Campaign. We also feel that it is imperative for public outreach to reduce the rising cesarean section rate.

The data from the AABC's 10 year Birth Center VBAC Study revealed that almost one third of women in the study felt that their first c-section was unnecessary. Birth centers have documented significantly lower rates of cesarean births (4.4%), which are less than rates recommended by the World Health Organization. AABC is in the process of beginning a national campaign to educate the public about cesarean births including the risks of cesarean birth, and risk factors for future pregnancies, which are largely unknown to the public, and how to prevent cesarean sections by choosing birth centers and the midwifery model of care. Birth centers consistently demonstrate a high rate of consumer satisfaction.

The American Association of Birth Centers is the nation's most comprehensive resource on birth centers. A non-profit membership organization founded by the Maternity Center Association under a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York, AABC is dedicated to developing quality holistic services for childbearing families that promote self-reliance and confidence in birth and parenting. AABC publishes materials on birth centers, sets national standards for birth center operation, and promotes state regulations for licensure and national accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. More information about AABC can be found at [www.BirthCenters.org](http://www.BirthCenters.org)

We look forward to a continued partnership of the ACNM and the AABC on the important issues affecting our nation's mothers and babies.

Sincerely,

Jill Alliman, CNM, MSN  
President



*formerly the National Association of Childbearing Centers (NACC)*