



August 7, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the members of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), I am writing to express the profession's strongest possible endorsement for the America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R.3200), legislation that will improve women access to health care coverage and make necessary reforms to our nation's health care system. ACNM wishes to acknowledge the hard work of House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor Committee members and staff in crafting this important legislation that ACNM believes will improve the health status of women and their newborns.

As the health reform debate began this Congress, ACNM identified seven key principles as essential ingredients in health reform legislation:

- Providing universal coverage,
- Eliminating health disparities,
- Focusing health care resources on wellness, disease prevention and primary care services,
- Improving care integration and coordination,
- Aligning payment systems with evidence-based practice and optimal outcomes,
- Improving women's access to high quality care, and
- Improving maternal and infant health.

ACNM believes H.R.3200 takes important strides toward addressing each of these important principals and is proud to endorse this landmark legislation. For additional information on ACNM's position, please feel free to contact our federal representative Patrick Cooney at (202) 347-0034.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Kline Kaplan
Executive Director