



NEWS RELEASE

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ACNM Issues Seven Key Principles of Health Care Reform

Silver Spring, MD – As part of an ongoing commitment to working with Congress and the Obama Administration to support comprehensive health care reform, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is pleased to offer the organization's **Seven Key Principles of Health Care Reform**. These principles will form the foundation for ACNM's ongoing work in this area, and the first of a series of communications spotlighting key issues in women's health and maternity care in the US and the expertise that certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) bring to these issues.

In a December welcome letter to President Obama, ACNM expressed its strong support for comprehensive health care reform. "Health care reform must focus on expanding access to needed services while improving outcomes," said ACNM President Melissa Avery, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN. "ACNM members encourage you to prioritize improved access to quality maternity and primary care and look forward to working with you on specific policy strategies to achieve this goal."

CNMs and CMs have the breadth of knowledge, education, and experience to provide proven, evidence-based and cost-effective solutions to these challenges. CNMs attended more than 317,000 births in 2006—a record number—according to the most recent report of the National Center for Health Statistics, or 10.83% of all vaginal births. The number of CNM-attended births has increased 33% over the past 10 years. In addition, CNMs and CMs are important providers of primary care services to women; an estimated 90 percent of patient visits are for primary, preventive care which includes gynecologic care.

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With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and infants within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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