

ACNM Endorsement Process

Document/legislation presented to ACNM for endorsement

Initial staff or member expert review

Key questions: Does the issue have an impact on our members and/or women's health? Do we believe ACNM should be involved in or take a stand on the issue? Is the document or issue consistent with our organizational mission, values, and policy agenda?

Yes

NO. Do not endorse (stop).

Key question: Does ACNM have existing positions or policies related to this issue?

Yes

NO.

Identify and utilize expertise; review by appropriate Division, Committee, individual member or staff member with relevant expertise. Recommend endorsement anyway?

Yes. Recommend endorsement to the BOD.

NO. Do not endorse: oppose or remain silent.

Key question: Should ACNM develop a statement, position or other document on this issue?

Yes

NO (stop).

Add this topic to the development pipeline for ACNM documents (stop).

Identify relevant policies and positions. Is the document/legislation consistent with our existing positions?

Yes, completely.

Yes, in part.

NO. Do not endorse. Oppose or remain silent.

ENDORSE

Partial Endorsement

Modify existing ACNM positions?

Take additional actions?

Yes

NO (stop).

Communicate to members, staff and volunteer leadership

Factors Influencing the Review Process:

1. Staff conducts an initial assessment of the issue and circumstances. Factors to be considered include time frame, involvement of partnering organizations, importance or relevance of the issue to members and those they serve, and ACNM staff or member participation in the document/position being considered.
2. Staff develops a response plan based on the specifics of the circumstance. Our goal is to identify the highest level of expertise within the time frame and resources available commensurate with the level of technicality and importance of the issue. In some cases this may be a staff member, a member expert, or we may consult with partnering organizations.
3. In some cases, however, when a process is moving quickly and where ACNM's position is clear, ACNM staff may make the decision and then inform the President and the board of directors.
4. On complex issues, staff will prepare a brief summary including the development and review process, any controversies identified, and an analysis within the context of our existing positions. A recommendation regarding endorsement will be presented to the ACNM President. The President may then approve endorsement or recommend that the issue be brought before the full board.
5. When contemplating ethical or politically sensitive or controversial issues, every attempt will be made to communicate with and facilitate discussion amongst the full board of directors and the Ethics Committee leadership as to the nature of the issue, the recommended action (endorsement, opposition or remaining neutral), and the timeline for the response.
6. When decisions to support sensitive or controversial issues are announced, every attempt will be made to recognize that there may be members who do not agree with the decision of the College, and to create appropriate forums for member discussion.

Who Reviews?

Clinical Issues



Division of Standards
and Practice Staff

Legislative and Regulatory Issues



- Federal Lobbyist
- Staff
- Coalition for Quality Maternity Care
- APRN Coalition
- ANA Organizational Affiliate
- AWHONN
- ACOG

Health Policy Issues

(Patient safety, quality of care, client communications, scope of practice, etc; human rights, gender issues, etc.)



- Appropriate Divisions and Committees (DOSP, DOE, DOR, DGH, Ethics, Midwives of Color)
- Member experts
- Staff

Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors, June 2012