



ACNM Statement on Dissolution of Idaho Maternal Mortality Review Committee

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SILVER SPRING, Md. – The American College of Nurse-Midwives is disappointed in the Idaho legislature’s decision to forgo extending the state’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) beyond the original sunset date of July 1, 2023. As of January 2023, all 50 states had established MMRCs to review the medical and death records of people who died during or within one-year of pregnancy and provide policy recommendations and best practices to lawmakers and maternal health professionals. In addition to understanding the drivers of maternal mortality and pregnancy complications, data gleaned from state MMRCs can help determine what interventions can be incorporated throughout the care continuum and highlights key opportunities for prevention of pregnancy-associated deaths and morbidity.

“It’s no secret that the United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among similar high-income countries and these statistics continue to worsen nationally and the rate of pregnancy-related deaths remains high in Idaho,” stated ACNM President Heather Clarke, DNP, CNM, APRN, LM, FACNM. “To help turn the tide on maternal mortality we must uplift and build on current momentum of supporting the critical work of MMRCs and prioritize ways to effectively reduce and prevent maternal deaths and pregnancy complications, many of which disproportionately impact people of color. We urge the Idaho legislature to pass legislation reinstating the state’s MMRC and work to ensure that the people of Idaho have access to the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care services and providers.”

The legislature’s decision to dissolve the state’s MMRC makes Idaho the only state in the country without a MMRC in place and sets an unfortunate precedent.