ACNM 2026 Hill Day Talking Points

Target Meeting Duration: 25-30 Minutes

Introductions & Overview of ACNM *(If there is more than one midwife per hill meeting, please designate a person to kick off the meeting).*

Begin your meetings with a brief round of introductions (i.e., all midwives will introduce themselves, where in the state they are from and where they work). After introductions, give a brief overview of the American College of Nurse-Midwives before highlighting personal stories and discussing ACNMs Hill Day Ask (Support for the Midwives for MOMS Act, the Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act, and the Midwives for Servicemembers Act)

- ACNM is the professional association that represents the interests of advanced practice midwives (i.e., certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs)) in the United States.
- Both CNMs and CMs are advanced practice providers. Certified midwives differ from certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) *only* in that they are not also licensed as nurses. CMs and CNMs have the same master's and/or doctorate level education, meet the same core competencies, sit for the same board exam, and have identical scopes of practice including prescriptive privileges.
- ACNMs members are primary health care clinicians who provide evidence-based midwifery care for women and gender-diverse people throughout the lifespan, with an emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, gynecologic and reproductive health care.
- ACNM works to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the midwifery profession and across the care continuum to ensure better healthcare outcomes for the people midwives serve.
- As of February 2026, there are 14,808 CNMs and 142 CMs in the U.S.

  Visit: https://www.amcb.org

  to find out how many active midwifery certificants are in your state.

- Midwives promote healthy physiologic birth. By doing so, they help reduce the incidence of unnecessary cesarean sections and other interventions. Healthy physiologic birth means healthier moms and newborns, fewer complications and side-effects, and much lower health care costs.
- While CNMs and CMs are well-known for attending births, over 50 percent of CNMs/CMs identify reproductive care and over 35% identify primary care as main responsibilities in their full-time positions. *Examples include annual exams, writing prescriptions, basic nutrition counseling, parenting education, patient education and reproductive health benefits.*
- Numerous studies show that better integration of midwives practicing to the full extent of their education, clinical training and certification can help prevent maternal deaths, reduce racial disparities, improve maternal and neonatal outcomes, and improve access to health care.

ACNM Key Legislative Ask for 2026 Hill Day

Funding for Accredited Midwifery Education Programs to Improve Childbirth Outcomes

- **SPECIFIC ASK: Ask members and/or staff to co-sponsor the *Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services Act (H.R. 6394/S. 1599)*.**
  - The Midwives for MOMS legislation would authorize federal funding streams specific to accredited midwifery education programs under both Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of nationally certified midwives available to in the U.S. to provide full-scope midwifery and maternity care.
  - Midwives for MOMS is supported by over 75 national organizations, including: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Birth Centers, American Nurses Association, Every Mother Counts, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, March of Dimes, National Association of Certified Professional Midwives, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the National Partnership for Women and Families and all 63 nursing organizations that make up the Nursing Community Coalition.

- **What the Midwives for MOMS legislation does:**
  - *The Midwives for MOMS Act* establishes two new funding streams ***exclusively*** for accredited midwifery education programs, one in the Title VII Health Professions Training Programs and one in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs.
  - Existing accredited midwifery education programs, or colleges, universities, HBCUs or other minority-based institutions interested in establishing new midwifery education programs would be eligible to apply to the Health Resources and Services Administration for grant funding that could be used for:
    - Direct support for Student Midwives (i.e., midwifery programs would have to apply for grant funding to attract students to their respective programs).
    - Establishment or expansion of an accredited midwifery school or program.
    - Securing, preparing or providing support for increasing the number of preceptors at clinical training sites to precept students training to become a CNM or CM.
    - Funding will be prioritized for programs that effectively demonstrate during the grant application process that students will work in maternity care target areas (MCTAs) i.e., HRSA designated areas within HPSAs that are deemed in need of maternity care providers.

- **Why Midwives for MOMS is necessary:**
  - The causes for the escalating rates of maternal mortality and morbidity are complex but include a shortage of qualified and diverse health clinicians. To ensure that health care needs are met, we need a robust maternal health workforce who can support people throughout their pregnancies, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period. Research has shown that people tend to do better with providers that look like them.[i]
  - The aging of the nursing and midwifery workforce together with shifting demographics in the US (by 2050 the US population is projected to be majority "minority", with the working-age population becoming more than 50 percent persons of color in 2039), and the ability to recruit and retain talent from all backgrounds will be critical to the success and advancement of the profession.[ii]
  - Greater racial diversity in the health care workforce will help improve access to culturally appropriate care and the quality of patient-provider interactions for BIPOC and is an important intervention to help reduce the racial disparities that plague maternal and child health and disproportionately affect communities of color, many of which reside in primary care health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).

- The cost of an accredited midwifery education is a barrier to many aspiring and prospective midwives. Investment in federal grant funding designated solely for accredited midwifery education programs is integral to making midwifery education a viable option for many communities, including those who identify as BIPOC.
- ACNM supports current congressional legislative efforts (e.g., passage of the *Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services Act*,) to increase the number midwives, thereby diversifying the maternity care workforce with individuals who represent the lived and cultural experiences of the patients they serve.

Subsequent ACNM 2026 Hill Day Asks:

Support for:

- The Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act
- The Midwives for Servicemembers Act
- The BABIES Act