

# AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES

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August 14, 2026

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Organizational Advancement

Attn: Credentialing Review

P.O. Box 94986

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

## **RE: Letter of Support for the Nebraska Affiliate's Intent to Request Credentialing Review for Certified Nurse-Midwives**

Dear Credentialing Review Program,

On behalf of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the national professional association representing Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs) across the United States, I am writing to express our strong support for the notice of intent submitted by Nebraska Certified Nurse Midwives (NCNM), our state affiliate, to pursue credentialing review of Nebraska statutes governing Certified Nurse-Midwives.

ACNM has represented the midwifery profession since 1955 and sets the national standards for midwifery education, certification, and practice. We work closely with our state affiliates to advance policy that allows CNMs and CMs to practice to the full extent of their education and certification, and to ensure that women and families in every state have access to safe, evidence-based midwifery care. Nebraska's current statutory framework, which constrains the collaborative practice relationships, prescribing authority, and birth setting options available to CNMs, no longer reflects the clinical evidence base or the workforce needs of the state.

The changes NCNM intends to pursue through this credentialing review, a pathway to full practice authority, modernized provisions on collaborative practice and prescribing, and the removal of statutory restrictions on planned out-of-hospital birth for appropriate low-risk individuals are consistent with recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, the World Health Organization, and a substantial and growing body of peer-reviewed research demonstrating the safety of midwifery-led care across birth settings. These changes are also consistent with policy already adopted in most states, where full practice authority for CNMs has been associated with improved access to maternity care and no adverse effect on maternal or neonatal outcomes.

This issue carries urgency in Nebraska, where a significant share of counties are considered maternity care deserts, and where rural families in particular face long travel distances and limited options for prenatal, birth, and postpartum care. Removing outdated statutory barriers to CNM practice is one of the most direct and evidence-supported steps the state can take to expand the maternity care workforce and improve access without new public expenditure.

ACNM stands behind NCNM's application and is prepared to provide the Department with supplementary data, national practice standards, or subject-matter expertise that would assist in the credentialing review process. We are grateful for the Department's consideration of this request and for its continued attention to the health and well-being of Nebraska's child-bearing families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle R. Munroe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Munroe, DNP, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, COL (Ret.)  
Chief Executive Officer  
American College of Nurse-Midwives