



To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the Nebraska Section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Nebraska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) in its application through the DHHS 407 review process.

AWHONN recognizes Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) as highly qualified, independent healthcare providers and vital members of the interdisciplinary maternal care team. We are committed to supporting a woman's right to make informed choices regarding her healthcare provider and birth setting, consistent with safe, evidence-based practices.

Nebraska continues to experience significant challenges related to maternal healthcare workforce shortages, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Enhancing and modernizing the role of Certified Nurse-Midwives represents a critical opportunity to strengthen the healthcare workforce and expand access to high-quality maternity care for women and families across the state.

Certified Nurse-Midwives play an essential role in improving access to safe, patient-centered care while upholding rigorous standards of education, certification, and clinical practice. AWHONN supports initiatives that allow CNMs to practice to the full extent of their education and training, thereby improving health outcomes and addressing gaps in care.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and your continued commitment to improving maternal and newborn health in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Samantha Kenning, MSN, RN, C-EFM, C-ONQS

Chair, Nebraska Section

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)