

August 27, 2026

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Credentialing Review Program
Attn: Technical Review Committee

RE: Support for the Certified Nurse-Midwife Credentialing Review Application

Dear Members of the Technical Review Committee:

The Nebraska Board of Nursing would like to offer its full support to the Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM) for their upcoming credentialing review application. As you may know, as of July 1, 2026, the Certified Nurse Midwives are included in regulation by the Board of Nursing.

Certified Nurse Midwives are one of four groups of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Nebraska, and hold the credential APRN-CNM. Based on the evolution of their education, practice and certification over the past 40 years in Nebraska, it is time to move forward to update the statute to allow for full practice authority of this group of APRNs. This should expand APRN-CNM services across greater Nebraska, by eliminating a tie to a physician who delivers babies, through the existing collaborative agreement requirement.

Based on the initiatives proposed in the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) for Nebraska, full practice authority for the APRN-CNM will provide for growth in the rural health workforce to expand much needed maternity care in rural health areas of the state. Clearly, the time is right to enhance the ability to practice the full scope of Nurse Midwifery across the state in conjunction with the resources provided through the RHTP.

In closing, the Nebraska Board of Nursing supports full-practice authority based on education and certification for this qualified and growing group of Advanced Practice RNs. We urge the committee to carefully review the evidence, consider the support and opportunities provided through the RHTP program, and support the change in practice authority for this group of providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Smidt", is written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Smidt, MS, BSN, RN
Chair, Nebraska Board of Nursing