



September 21, 2026

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Organizational Advancement
Attn: Credentialing Review
P.O. Box 94986
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

RE: Credentialing Review (407) Program application

Dear Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Nebraska Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) in their pursuit of regulatory changes as part of the 407 Review process. As Dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing (CON), I recognize the critical role that CNMs play in advancing maternal and child health, particularly in underserved areas of our state.

UNMC College of Nursing has been educating nurses since 1917. We are educating the largest number of nurses for the state of Nebraska. We are committed to developing a nursing pipeline and workforce that meets the needs of Nebraskans. We have been educating advanced practice nurses for decades and understand the value they bring to the healthcare setting and community that positively impact patient outcomes. UNMC CON has completed a feasibility study for a CNM program with planning underway to secure funding to launch this program.

The proposed changes update the scope of practice for CNMs to not only align with national trends in healthcare but also reflect the evolving needs of our communities. By enhancing the capabilities of CNMs, we can ensure that women receive comprehensive, evidence-based care that addresses their unique health needs. This is essential in improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in access to quality maternal healthcare across greater Nebraska.

I urge you to consider the beneficial implications of these changes not only for CNMs but for the health of all women in Nebraska. I fully support the application and respectfully request your support of the proposed scope of practice updates that will transform, modernize, and improve access to maternal and child healthcare in our state.

Thank you for considering this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lepaine Sharp-McHenry".

Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, DNP, RN, FACDONA
Dean and Professor