



National Center for Interstate Compacts

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Request for Applications to Develop New Interstate Compacts for Occupational Licensure

Request for Applications: January 31, 2024

For questions or requests for assistance regarding the Request for Application instructions, application criteria and deadlines, please contact matthew.shafer@csg.org or csims@csg.org. Responses to questions sent before the submission deadline will be posted on the project website: <https://compacts.csg.org/>



Purpose

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is providing funding to The Council of State Governments (CSG) to assist professions in the development of new interstate compacts for occupational licensure portability. The scope of this assistance includes the drafting of model interstate compact legislation, developing a legislative resource kit and convening a meeting of state policymakers to introduce the compact.

Objective

The objective of the project is the drafting of interstate compact model legislation addressing issues impacting military spouses and other professionals in state licensed occupations when they transition from state-to-state. This work is in response to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act which amends Section 575 10 USC 1784(h)(1) to state:

“[t]he Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments to assist with the funding of the development of interstate compacts on licensed occupations in order to alleviate the burden associated with relicensing in such an occupation by spouse of members of the armed forces in connection with a permanent change of duty station of members to another State.”

These compacts create reciprocity across participating states, allowing professionals in licensed occupations to continue to practice seamlessly when they cross state boundaries. The intent of the Cooperative Agreement is to establish a series of occupational licensure interstate compacts to support military spouses and other professionals in state licensed occupations. The goals of these compacts are to:

- Support spouses of relocating active-duty military personnel;
- Create streamlined pathways for interstate practice;
- Increase public access to health care;
- Enhance the states’ ability to protect the public’s health and safety;
- Encourage the cooperation of compact member states in regulating multistate practice;
- Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information by means of compact commission databases; and
- Encompass professions not currently utilizing an interstate occupational licensure compact.



Licensure Compacts

- There are fifteen active interstate compacts for occupational licensure
- 293 pieces of compact legislation have been passed since 2016
- 50 states and territories have adopted at least one licensure compact
- 41 states and territories have adopted at least three licensure compacts

Funding

- DoD is providing CSG funding to facilitate the development model legislation for each new interstate compact.
- CSG will fund all elements of model legislation development for new interstate compacts including staff personnel, convenings, materials, and technical assistance. All funding will flow from DoD to CSG. CSG will fund all compact development activities on behalf of the chosen profession. **Successful applicants will not receive direct funding from CSG or DoD.**
- If your organization is selected to participate in the development of an interstate compact, receipt of any assistance will be contingent on entering into and complying with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSG.

Potential Applicants

CSG is seeking applications for interstate compact development from associations or federations of state licensing boards, national professional associations or national credentialing bodies for professions that are licensed ***in at least 30 states***.

To Apply

Those interested in this opportunity should complete this form with all required elements. All applications should be submitted via email to compacts@csq.org with the subject line, "Application for Interstate Compact Assistance". To be considered for review, applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. ET on January 31, 2024.

Technical Assistance

CSG will provide pre-award technical assistance to interested applicants through virtual meetings and email correspondence to aid in the application development process and



assist with any additional questions that arise during application development. We strongly encourage all applications to contact CSG to discuss the feasibility of an interstate compact for your profession. To request technical assistance, please email compacts@csg.org.

Informational Webinar

CSG will host informational webinars for interested applicants to explain the application process, project scope and the interstate licensure compact development process. Topics included: Interstate Compacts 101, a project overview and application instructions. To access a recording of these webinars, click [here](#).

Compact Development Process

See appendix A for a detailed description of the compact development process and details regarding activities covered under this cooperative agreement.

Contact Information - Primary staff contact for this application.

Contact Name

<input type="text" value="Cassandra"/>	<input type="text" value="Jah, PhD, CPM"/>
First Name	Last Name

Contact Title

Organization Name

Phone Number

<input type="text" value="802"/>	<input type="text" value="556-1522"/>
Area Code	Phone Number

Email

example@example.com



Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions as they relate to your profession, focusing on the need for and feasibility of an interstate compact. Applicants can submit supplemental documentation to support answers as necessary

- 1) Please provide a brief description of the organization or groups of organizations you represent.

(500-word limit)

The National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) is submitting this application as a member association of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and the recognized US professional organization for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs).

There are three national CPM organizations recognized by ICM, the other two organizations have provided letters of support for this application and initiative.

National certified professional and nurse-midwifery organizations, MEAC-accredited schools, businesses, and reproductive justice organizations support our application and this effort.

- 2) Please list any additional organizations you have secured to support this effort ¹.

(500-word limit)

ICM Recognized Organizations:

- North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)
- Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC)

MEAC Accredited Institutions:

- Mercy in Action College of Midwifery
- Midwives College of Utah
- Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

¹ Please provide a letter from any support organizations as documentation.



Allied Organizations:

- National Black Midwives Alliance
- American Association of Birth Centers
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- Policy Institute for Community Birth and Midwifery
- Purchaser Business Group on Health
- Elephant Circle
- Bold Futures
- International Institute for Health Care Professionals (IIHCP)
- Quilted Health
- Changing Woman Initiative

See Appendix B for documentation of letters of support.

- 3) Please note approximately how many active licensed practitioners are employed in your profession? If known, how many of these practitioners are military spouses?

(500-word limit)

As of January 1, 2023 there were 2,608 active CPMs. Of these, 1,984 have verified licenses in 28 states (nine states do not provide publicly available lists of occupational licenses).

There are approximately 1,000 student CPMs nationwide.

There is no data collection from any national organization on the number of Licensed Certified Professional Midwives who are also military spouses, but from informal sources, NACPM estimates between 1-2%.



- 4) Please describe how this profession is currently licensed by the states. Please note the areas of uniformity in licensing requirements across states. (500-word limit)

NACPM is a member association of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and embraces the ICM Global Vision for Strengthening Midwifery and the ICM Standards for Midwifery Regulation (2011). These Global Standards serve as a guide to the development of legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and promoting changes that strengthen regulatory frameworks to support autonomous midwifery practice.

In 2015, a multistakeholder group including NACPM, agreed to the *USMERA language*, which outlines legislation that all stakeholders in the group would support to increase the passage of licensure in the remaining unlicensed states. This language is connected to the ICM global standards via MEAC accreditation. Since the introduction of this specific language, it has been adopted in legislation by nine states and the District of Columbia, with only Oklahoma passing related legislation without incorporating the US MERA language since its inception.

Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in the United States are licensed by individual states, and the process varies across the country. However, there are some common elements in the licensing requirements:

- **Licensing Board:** States either create a new licensing board (preferred) or utilize a preexisting one (such as those used for alternative medicine, nurse-midwifery, or medicine). Licensing statutes also determine if licensing for CPMs is optional or mandatory.
- **Scope of Practice:** Nine state statutes or rules reference NACPM and/or NACPM standards/essential documents when this is not, done It is common for states to establish a scope of practice limitations for CPMs. Common areas of variance include the permission or prohibition of attending breech and twin deliveries, vaginal births after cesarean (VBAC), and the handling of various higher-risk health criteria. There is also variation in legally allowing well-person care outside of pregnancy and the length CPMs may continue care in the postpartum period for both the birthing person and their infant.



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- **Pharmacological Formularies:** All states establish rules around medication administration and many reference formularies and set rules about the right to obtain these medications.
 - **Educational Pathway and Exams:** Thirty-six states use the national certification exam as a requirement. Some states dictate approved educational pathways, seven states limit licensing to midwives who completed the MEAC-accredited path, and a few have additional clinical experience and/or a requirement to pass a jurisprudence exam.
 - **Reporting Requirements and Mandatory Testing:** States establish requirements for reporting communicable diseases and clinical events and outline mandated testing for newborns and patients.
 - **Continuing Education and Certificate Renewal:** Requirements for ongoing education and renewal of clinical certifications (such as CPM and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)) are set by the state.

Uniformity in licensing requirements often lies in the foundational need for CPMs to demonstrate competency in midwifery skills and knowledge, adhere to certain educational standards, and comply with state-specific legal and professional requirements. However, the specifics can vary significantly from state to state, reflecting local healthcare policies, available resources, and cultural attitudes toward midwifery and alternative medicine practices.



- 5) Describe any national licensure standards required by states that exist for this profession – (education/training, exam, certification, etc.). (500-word limit)

As a national credential issued by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), which is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE, formerly NOCA) the CPM credential has no national *licensing* standards. In order to become a CPM one must obtain permission to take and pass the NARM exam, this credential is required in 35 out of 37 states and districts where licensure is available the other two states, California and Florida, utilize the exam as part of their licensure process.

All Certified Professional Midwives must:

- Pass the NARM examination,
- Carry an active CPR and NRP certification and document
- Proof of completion of education in the area of cultural awareness.

Additionally, CPMs must submit written verification of the following to NARM:

- Practice Guidelines,
- Emergency Care Form,
- Initial Informed Disclosure, and
- Informed Consent documents.

The education of all CPMs must include Core Competencies: Professional Issues, Knowledge, and Skills, General Healthcare Skills, Maternal Health Assessment, Prenatal, Labor, Birth and Immediate Postpartum, Postpartum, and Well Baby Care. CPMs must meet a minimum education level of a high school diploma (or equivalent).

During the course of their educational process, all CPM applicants are required to acquire the full range of NARM-identified entry-level midwifery skills. The minimum clinical component of all educational pathways must be at least two years and include observational births, prenatal examinations, intrapartum management, postpartum appointments including lactation support, and newborn care by a student midwife under supervision. All CPM students must work under a qualified supervising preceptor for their clinical experiences. Preceptors must be credentialed as Medical or Naturopathic Doctors, CPMs, CNMs, Certified Midwives (CM), or be a licensed practitioner legally recognized by a state/jurisdiction to provide maternity care.



Clinical instructors (preceptors) must have an additional three years of experience after credentialing or fifty supervised births beyond entry-level CPM requirements. Additionally, they must have ten continuity-of-care deliveries beyond entry-level CPM requirements and have attended at least ten community births in the last three years.

Recertification Requirements for CPMs

CPM recertification is a quality assurance mechanism to support midwives in facilitating their continuing competence and requires that all CPMs:

- Renew their national credential every three years,
- Complete 25 Continuing Education Contact Hours every three years,
- Participate in 5 Contact Hours of Peer Review or attend a workshop,
- Submit proof of current CPR and NRP,
- Affirm the current use of Practice Guidelines, Emergency Care Form, Informed Disclosure, and Informed Consent documents,
- Document completion of education in cultural awareness within the last three years, and complete demographic information.

Revocation

The NARM CPM credential may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

- Falsification of application information.
- Failure to participate in the Complaint Review, Grievance Mechanism, or to abide by the conditions set as a result of the Grievance Mechanism.
- Infractions of the Non-Disclosure policy, which threaten the security of the NARM Examinations.
- Substantiated accusations of impaired practice.

- 6) Describe any current or past efforts to enhance licensure portability and reciprocity for your profession. (500-word limit)



NACPM is committed to securing licensure for Certified Professional Midwives in all 50 states and U.S. territories based on the standards set by the profession for certification, education, scope of practice, and standard of care. Licensure is key to making midwifery more widely accessible and enables CPMs to participate in an integrated system that includes opportunities for consultation, collaboration, referral, and multi-disciplinary peer review. It is also a mechanism by which members of the midwifery profession are held accountable to the public for providing safe care that is consistent with the scope of practice defined by the profession and upheld by state law and subsequent regulatory guidelines.

Understanding that midwifery regulation historically was often used as a tool to restrict or eliminate midwifery, NACPM is committed to strengthening the profession, addressing barriers to full participation in the profession, particularly by people of color, and supporting legislation that facilitates access to care and contributes to a robust, more representative midwifery workforce.

CPMs have a path to licensure in 36 states and the District of Columbia: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

At the state level, several states, for example, New Mexico, have statutes that allow a licensed midwife from another state to apply using only their proof of licensure, their CPM credential, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Neonatal Resuscitation, IV certification, and passing of the New Mexico jurisprudence exam to qualify for licensure in New Mexico.

States adopting the USMERA legislative language was, in part, an effort to increase portability for licensed midwives. Since the creation of the credential, NARM has lobbied for states to use the national exam to increase uniformity and portability.



The following is an example of an attempt at reimbursement reciprocity at the federal level. The 2009 MAMA Campaign and Certified Professional Midwives Act and the Certified Professional Midwives Act in 2011 and 2013 introduced an amendment to the federal Medicaid law to mandate reimbursement for CPM services. Lobby efforts resulted in the Affordable Care Act to include Medicaid reimbursement of the provider fee for state-licensed midwives serving in state-licensed birth centers.

(500-word limit)

- 7) Describe any efforts this profession has made to ease licensure obstacles for military spouses.

(500-word limit)

Across the nation, there have been four main efforts toward easing the licensure obstacles for military spouses in midwifery:

1. In Arkansas, language was added to their licensing law that if someone is in the military or married to someone in the military, they are eligible for a midwifery license while working on meeting the licensing requirements.
2. In Alaska, there is a provision for a Temporary Military Courtesy Certificate or Permit.
3. States whose licensure does not require MEAC-accredited graduation simplify the licensing process by ensuring competency through a national examination rather than an educational pathway which makes licensing possible for military spouses more accessible.
4. MEAC-accredited institutions leveraging participation in NC-SARA to facilitate clinical placements for students on military bases abroad. This approach is crucial for student midwives who are military spouses, helping them overcome challenges to completing their clinical training.
5. NACPM's establishment of a grant for military spouses that reimburses them for licensing expenses related to relocation.

- 8) Please provide a statement of need explaining why financial and technical support from CSG is necessary for your profession to develop an interstate occupational licensure compact. (500-word limit)



Momentum for licensure of direct-entry midwives has been building for nearly 50 years, additional resources are essential to accelerating the pace of licensure in all states and territories and achieving true portability for CPMs. The three ICM pillar organizations, NACPM, NARM, and MEAC have worked for more than two decades, and the USMERA collective has worked for almost a decade to establish licensure across all 50 states and US territories. Modern licensure was first passed in 1976. Between 1976- 1990, seven states were licensed, from 1991-2000, after the creation of the CPM credential, ten states achieved licensure. Twelve more states added licensure between, 2001-2015. In 2015, the USMERA legislative language was developed, and six of the seven next states to establish licensure used this language adding to licensure uniformity.

The most current states to try and fail at establishing licensure in their state (Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina) were stopped at different points in the legislative process. CSG's help navigating interstate compact agreements, networking, and legal expertise could help navigate these difficult situations.

There are five areas with active CPM bills in progress: New York, Georgia, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Puerto Rico. There are six others planning for future bill introduction: Connecticut, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Excepting Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, in 2021 these remaining 7 states had more than 50% of their counties classified as maternity care deserts by the US Health Resources and Services Administration.

While NACPM dedicates 32% of its staff budget toward these efforts through our state chapter program and legislation campaigns this represents a small fraction of the financial resourcing required to achieve this monumental and important task. NACPM believes the remaining holdout states and territories will take more volunteer effort, political navigating, and funds to achieve licensure.

Interstate compact agreements could incentivize states to amend outdated laws and update language to increase uniformity, the capacity for reciprocity and better portability. For example, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Louisiana, have laws that were passed in the 70s and early 80s that contain outdated language and have created problematic practice environments. If these states established interstate compacting agreements, this may incentivize states to open older laws and update language to increase uniformity, the capacity for reciprocity, and better portability.



- 9) As noted above, the Department of Defense is providing funding to CSG for the development of new interstate compacts for occupational licensure portability. CSG will provide successful applicants with an array of support to create the interstate compact model legislation, including CSG personnel and legal counsel, convenings, materials and other technical assistance CSG deems necessary. Neither CSG nor DoD will provide direct funding to successful applicants.

Applicants will be responsible for supporting any other activities needed to complete the process of creating a successful interstate occupational licensure compact, including aiding the effort to enact the compact in the states, assisting the member states with the formation of the interstate commission to administer the compact and supporting the creation of a compact data system.²

Please describe the financial and other resources your organization and supporting organizations will commit to sustaining this effort as described above.

One-third of the total staff and contractor hours at NACPM have been set aside for this effort alone; this equates to \$52,550. NACPM is applying for multiple grants to support these efforts and has established a website page dedicated to educating members and stakeholders on the importance of these efforts and campaigning for donations.

The organizations supporting NACPMs application, included several educational institutions and the education accrediting agency, are posed to contribute by:

- **Expertise and Knowledge:** Leveraging the skills and experience of the organizational professionals in healthcare policy, law, and midwifery to guide the development of the compact.
- **Networking and Advocacy:** Utilizing connections to influence policymakers, gain support from key stakeholders, and advocate for the compact at both state and national levels.
- **Research and Data Analysis:** Conducting research to gather data on the benefits and challenges of midwifery practice across states, which can be used to inform the compact's provisions.
- **Educational Resources:** Providing training and educational materials to midwives and healthcare professionals about the details and implications of the compact.

² Under the scope of the cooperative agreement between DoD and CSG, there is additional funding available to develop a compact data system. There will be a separate request for applications to aid in funding compact data systems.



- **Communication and Public Relations:** Developing communication strategies to raise public awareness and garner support for the compact.
- **Administrative and Logistical Support:** Assisting with the coordination of meetings, drafting of documents, and other administrative tasks necessary for establishing the compact.
- **Technology and Infrastructure:** Providing technological support for data sharing, license verification, and other processes that the compact might require.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging with communities, especially those underserved by healthcare, to understand their needs and how the compact could address them.
- **Policy Development:** Assisting in the formulation and refinement of policies and standards that will govern the compact.

These non-financial resources are crucial for the successful establishment and implementation of an interstate compact agreement for licensed midwives. They ensure that the compact is not only financially viable but also effectively meets the needs of midwives, healthcare systems, and the communities they serve.

(500-word limit)

- 10) Please state why the profession you represent is a good candidate for an interstate licensure compact.

(500-word limit)

There are several reasons why the occupation of Certified Professional Midwife is an excellent candidate for an interstate licensure compact:

- **Uniform Standards:** CPMs have consistent knowledge requirements, clinical training, and practice standards across states, making it easier to include in a licensure compact.
- **Addressing Shortages and Mobility Needs:** There is a US maternity care workforce shortage, with 36% of all counties classified as Maternity Care Deserts. An interstate compact can help alleviate this by allowing CPMs to fill gaps across state lines. CPMs commonly attend homebirths and frequently move across state lines to provide services in multiple states.
- **Telehealth & Technology:** With the rise of telemedicine and digital services, health practitioners like CPMs can serve patients in different states through online platforms, increasing access to providers in rural and Maternity Deserts.



- **Public Safety:** In times of crisis, it's vital to mobilize quickly across state borders. An illustrative case is New York, which, despite licensing Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) but lacking a formal licensure pathway, permitted CPMs licensed in other states to practice within its borders through an executive order during the COVID pandemic peak. Recognizing the value of this flexibility, NACPM is forging a partnership with FEMA to integrate CPMs into the national emergency response framework. Given their proficiency in delivering care in under-resourced communities, CPMs experienced a significant surge in care requests amid the pandemic, positioning them as essential frontline healthcare providers.
- **Economic Benefits:** Removing the barriers to interstate practice can stimulate economic growth, as CPMs can quickly provide their services and skills across states, leading to increased opportunities and revenues.
- **Educational Opportunities/ Health Disparities:** Currently, most midwifery students who are spouses to an active duty service member are forced only to consider the nurse-midwifery pathway to ensure they can practice regardless of their spouse's orders. Nurse-midwifery education is many times more costly and has the least flexible educational pathway to midwifery. Increased access to education increases diversity in providers, increasing the number of culturally matched providers and decreasing health disparities.
- **Consumer Access/ Protection:** Compacts increase consumer access to specialized community birth services that might not be readily available in their state. This is especially pertinent in rural or underserved areas, including those listed as Maternity Deserts. Interstate agreements ensure that practitioners meet consistent quality of care, providing consumer safety measures, and compacts can include provisions for a system to address complaints consistently across states.
- **Support from Professional Associations:** CPMs have strong national associations advocating for streamlined state licensure processes.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** State licensing boards benefit from reduced administrative workloads when processing licenses.
- **Consistent Renewal and Continuing Education Requirements:** Most currently licensed states have similar requirements for license renewals and continuing education.
- **Fostering Collaboration:** An interstate compact can foster better collaboration and knowledge sharing among professionals across states, leading to advancements in best practices.

In essence, CPMs, who are mobile, offer a significant reduction in health disparities, decrease the maternity care shortage, and can easily mobilize during crises, among other reasons, are strong candidates for an interstate licensure compact.



Appendix A: Interstate Compact Development Process

Below is a description of the interstate compact development process including services included in this funding opportunity.

Conduct Project Research – DoD Coop Agreement

CSG will conduct research, analysis, and support to the project organization(s) in understanding the scope of the proposed interstate compact including a detailed examination of strengths, barriers, benefits, impacts, historical data, timelines, and other extraordinary or specialized data identified by the project organization(s).

Develop and Convene an Advisory Group to Study Impacts – DoD Coop Agreement

CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will form an Advisory Group to review the project research, examine the issues and current policy spectrum, explore best practices and alternative structures, and develop recommendations for the draft interstate compact. The Advisory Group is composed of approximately 20 subject matter experts, project organization(s), partner organizations, policy makers, elected officials, and other stakeholders whose presence the project organization(s) consider necessary.

Develop and Convene a Drafting Team – DoD Coop Agreement

In consultation with the project organizations, CSG will form a Drafting Team to write the interstate compact. The Drafting Team is composed of approximately 8 individuals and supported by CSG attorneys and staff. The Drafting Team will craft an interstate compact that conforms to standard and accepted interstate compact language and structures based on the policy provisions recommended by the Advisory Group.

Stakeholder Review – DoD Coop Agreement

CSG will conduct an extensive and transparent stakeholder review process for the draft interstate compact. The stakeholder review process is open to the public and all responses will be accepted. CSG will also solicit feedback on the proposed draft compact from identified stakeholders and interested parties. CSG will organize the comments and reconvene the Drafting Team to analyze the feedback and decide if the issues raised warrant changes to the draft document.

Finalizing Compact Language – DoD Coop Agreement

After the Drafting Team completes its analysis of the comments from the stakeholder review process it will complete a final draft interstate compact. CSG will reconvene the Advisory Group to review the proposed final draft of the compact, the stakeholder review feedback, its recommendations to the Drafting Team, as well as the project scope materials and research to complete the process and finalize the compact.

Plan and Convene a Legislative Briefing – DoD Coop Agreement

CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will plan and convene a legislative briefing for legislators, legislative staff, executive branch officials, and relevant stakeholder groups to



provide an overview of the project, the new interstate compact, and address policy and operational questions regarding the compact such as constitutionality, impacts to state sovereignty, rulemaking provisions, and potential financial implications of enactment.

Legislative Resource Kit – DoD Coop Agreement

The CSG, in partnership with the project organization(s), will create a legislative resource kit that will serve as informational resource hub for the new interstate compact. The resource kit components will include:

- Project background and development process
- Text of the compact model legislation
- Frequently asked questions
- Talking points for stakeholders to share with legislators and policy makers
- Advisory Group and Drafting Team members
- Letters of Support, endorsements, press and other news media clips, Resolutions, etc.
- Informational documents, fact sheets and educational materials
- Primers on compact legal issues, constitutional issues and/or sovereignty issues
- Key contacts
- Talking Points

Appendix B: Letters of Support.

North American Registry of Midwives

Providing Certification Standards
For Certified Professional Midwives

Ida Darragh, CPM, LM
*Executive Director
Credentialing Specialist
Ida@narm.org*

January 29, 2024

Board of Directors

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Phone: 888-842-4784 #3
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testing@narm.org
www.narm.org*

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of The North American Registry of Midwives to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

Support for Military Spouses

Military families often face unique challenges due to frequent relocations. The current state-specific licensure requirements for midwives create unnecessary hurdles for military spouses who are Certified Professional Midwives, hindering their ability to continue their practice and provide for their families. Interstate compacts would greatly alleviate these challenges, supporting the career continuity of military spouses in this vital profession.

Decreasing Health Disparities

Midwifery care is pivotal in decreasing health disparities, especially in underserved and marginalized communities. CPMs often provide

culturally sensitive and personalized care, which is crucial in addressing the unique health needs of diverse populations. They are known for building trusting relationships with patients, leading to better health outcomes in communities that historically have less access to quality healthcare. Expanding midwifery services through interstate compacts would further enable midwives to reach these.

Improving Outcomes

The positive impact of midwifery care on maternal and neonatal outcomes is well-documented. Studies show that midwives contribute to higher rates of successful vaginal births, reducing the prevalence of cesarean deliveries, which carry higher risks of complications. Additionally, midwifery care is associated with higher breastfeeding rates, which offers numerous health benefits for both the infant and the birthing person. Midwives' focus on holistic and preventive care also improves maternal and neonatal health. Interstate compacts would allow more families and birthing individuals to access these benefits, enhancing the quality of care and outcomes in maternal and neonatal health across various states.

Conclusion and Endorsement

The North American Registry of Midwives firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Ida Darragh, CPM, LM
Executive Director
North American Registry of Midwives



Midwifery Education Accreditation Council

Shirdell Mattox

Executive Director

6417 Penn Ave S

Ste 8 iPMB 1075

Minneapolis, MN 55423

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Midwifery Education Accreditation Council to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

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Reduction in Healthcare Costs

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Decreasing Health Disparities

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shirdell Mattox', with a stylized, cursive style.

Shirdell Mattox
Executive Director

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council



Mercy In Action

College of Midwifery

3018 W. Overland Road, Boise, Idaho 83705 USA • www.mercycollegeofmidwifery.edu

Kristen Benoit
Director of Education
Mercy In Action College of Midwifery
3018 West Overland Road
Boise, ID, 83705
Email: kristen@mercyinaction.com
Phone: 208-850-6256

January 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mercy In Action College of Midwifery to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

Support for Military Spouses

Military families often face unique challenges due to frequent relocations. The current state-specific licensure requirements for midwives create unnecessary hurdles for military spouses who are Certified Professional Midwives, hindering their ability to continue their practice and provide for their families. Interstate compacts would greatly alleviate these challenges, supporting the career continuity of military spouses in this vital profession.

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Mercy In Action College of Midwifery firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Kristen Benoit
Director of Education
Mercy In Action College of Midwifery



EST. 1980

**MIDWIVES COLLEGE
OF UTAH**

M I D W I F I N G M I D W I V E S

January 24, 2024

Whitney Mesyef
President
Midwives College of Utah
1174 E. Graystone Way
Suite 20F
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106
President@midwifery.edu

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Midwives College of Utah to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Midwives College of Utah firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Whitney Mesyef
Whitney Mesyef

President

Midwives College of Utah



Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

Zulgeil Ruiz Ginés, LM, CPM
Dean of Midwifery Program & Operations
Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery
213 S Dillard St.
Unit 340, Winter Garden, FL, 34787
zulgeil.ruizgines@commonsensemifwifery.org

January, 25th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

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Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

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Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.



Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Zulgeil E. Ruiz Ginés, LM CPM
Dean of Midwifery Program & Operations
Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery



Kim Banton
Program Director
National Black Midwives Alliance
1835 NE Miami Gardens Drive #472
North Miami Beach FL 33179
blackmidwivesalliance@gmail.com

January 31, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of the National Black Midwives Alliance to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.



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Conclusion and Endorsement

The National Black Midwives Alliance firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Kim Banton
NBMA Program Director
National Black Midwives Alliance



AABC
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
BIRTH CENTERS

January 23, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of the American Association of Birth Centers (AABC) to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. AABC promotes research and high-quality birth center care through the Standards for Birth Centers, and represents birth centers, midwives, business owners and consumers seeking care in birth centers. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

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Support for Military Spouses

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Conclusion and Endorsement

AABC firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Respectfully,



Kate Bauer

Executive Director

American Association of Birth Centers

katebauer@birthcenters.org

+1 215-234-8068



January 24, 2024

Michelle L. Munroe, DNP, APRN, CNM, FACNM, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer
American College of Nurse-Midwives
409 12th Street, S.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20024-2188

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

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Conclusion and Endorsement

The American College of Nurse-Midwives firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in improving maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

January 24, 2024

Page 3

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact ACNM's Director of Government Affairs, Amy Kohl, akohl@ACNM.org, with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle L. Munroe".

Michelle L. Munroe, DNP, APRN, CNM, FACNM, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer
American College of Nurse-Midwives



January 30, 2024

Mary Lawlor, CPM, LM, MA
Policy Institute for Community Birth & Midwifery
234 Banning Road
Putney, Vermont 05346
917-453-6780
mary@picbm.org

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

To Whom It May Concern:

I was a founder in 2001 and executive leader of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) for over 20 years. I am currently the founding director of the Policy Institute for Community Birth and Midwifery (PICBM) whose purpose is to increase access to lifesaving community birth services in the U.S. As a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) with a background in clinical community birth practice, my work and that of the Policy Institute is the design and implementation of state and federal perinatal health policy to meet the urgent needs of childbearing people.

I am writing today in strong support of the application of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's initiative to add midwives to the growing number of professions with available occupational licensure compacts is commendable. It will position Certified Professional Midwives to better address the growing number of challenges of access to quality perinatal care and allow CPMs to more easily deploy to locations where the needs of childbearing people are most acute.

According to the [March of Dimes](#), 36% of all U.S. counties have no perinatal care providers at all, creating 'maternity care deserts', with millions of childbearing people with 'nowhere to go' for care. The plight of birthing people in our country, already urgent, has been made desperate by hospital closures, provider shortages, and increasing racial and social disparities that have resulted in worsening maternal and infant health outcomes, disproportionately affecting states and communities already experiencing the worst outcomes.

CPMs are rigorously trained, high-value primary perinatal care providers in the U.S., providing unique and critical access to normal physiologic birth, profoundly benefiting birthing people and their newborns. Research published in peer-reviewed national and international journals

demonstrates that the care of CPMs results in many fewer cesarean sections, premature births and low-birth-weight babies, along with significantly higher rates of breastfeeding, than for similar populations giving birth in hospitals. The CPM model of care is proving in communities to contribute to the reduction of unconscionable racial inequities and disparities in birth outcomes.

As community-based healthcare providers with expertise offering services in peoples' homes, free-standing birth centers, and local clinics, CPMs are prepared to immediately provide care to people in the most-affected communities, where the need is most urgent, the outcomes the poorest, and services currently most limited. Increasing license portability for CPMs will allow for multi-state practice without the burden of securing a license in each jurisdiction, creating 'borderless practices', and grow opportunities for increasing access to care through telehealth. A multi-state licensure compact for CPMs will enhance protection of the public through increasing the standardization of regulations for the profession across jurisdictions and through data sharing about midwifery practices among states participating in the compact.

The Policy Institute for Community Birth and Midwifery urges the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in securing this "gold standard of policy options" for the sake of childbearing people in our country.

Please feel free to reach out if there is any way we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lawlor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below.

Mary Lawlor, CPM, LM, MA
Founding Director, PICBM



1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94612
(415) 281-8660

pbgh.org

Blair Dudley
Director, Transform Maternity Care
Purchaser Business Group on Health
bdudley@pbgh.org

January 24, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Purchaser Business Group on Health to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

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Conclusion and Endorsement

The Purchaser Business Group on Health firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

330E5DC7EF2046F...

Blair Dudley

Director, Transform Maternity Care
Purchaser Business Group on Health



Indra Lusero
Director
Elephant Circle
3548 G Rd
Palisade, CO 81526
Indra@ElephantCircle.org
(720)504-8206

January 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Elephant Circle to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

Support for Military Spouses

Military families often face unique challenges due to frequent relocations. The current state-specific licensure requirements for midwives create unnecessary hurdles for military spouses who are Certified Professional Midwives, hindering their ability to continue their practice and provide for their families. Interstate compacts would greatly alleviate these challenges, supporting the career continuity of military spouses in this vital profession.

Reduction in Healthcare Costs

Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) significantly contribute to lowering healthcare costs. Their model of care, which emphasizes prevention, personal attention, and natural birth processes, often results in fewer unnecessary interventions, such as cesarean sections, which are more expensive than vaginal births. Furthermore, the midwifery model supports birth centers and a reduction in hospital admissions. By facilitating interstate compacts, midwives can extend their cost-effective services to a broader population, thereby contributing to the overall reduction in healthcare expenses related to childbirth and postnatal care.

Decreasing Health Disparities

Midwifery care is pivotal in decreasing health disparities, especially in underserved and marginalized communities. CPMs often provide culturally sensitive and personalized care, which is crucial in addressing the unique health needs of diverse populations. They are known for building trusting relationships with patients, leading to better health outcomes in communities that historically have less access to quality healthcare. Expanding midwifery services through interstate compacts would further enable midwives to reach these communities, effectively working towards reducing health disparities in maternal and neonatal care.

Improving Outcomes

The positive impact of midwifery care on maternal and neonatal outcomes is well-documented. Studies show that midwives contribute to higher rates of successful vaginal births, reducing the prevalence of cesarean deliveries, which carry higher risks of complications. Additionally, midwifery care is associated with higher breastfeeding rates, which offers numerous health benefits for both the infant and the birthing person. Midwives' focus on holistic and preventive care also improves maternal and neonatal health. Interstate compacts would allow more families and birthing individuals to access these benefits, enhancing the quality of care and outcomes in maternal and neonatal health across various states.

Conclusion and Endorsement

Elephant Circle firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Indra Lusero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Indra Lusero
Director
Elephant Circle



www.BoldFuturesNM.org
Albuquerque • 505.831.8930 • Las Cruces

Raquel Z. Rivera, PhD
Senior Research and Grants Associate
Bold Futures NM
4263 Montgomery Blvd NE Suite I-140 Albuquerque, NM 87109
raquel@boldfuturesnm.org
(646) 266-7182

January 29, 2024.

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate
Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Bold Futures NM to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing various pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

Support for Military Spouses

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continue their practice and provide for their families. Interstate compacts would greatly alleviate these challenges, supporting the career continuity of military spouses in this vital profession.

Reduction in Healthcare Costs

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Decreasing Health Disparities

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these benefits, enhancing the quality of care and outcomes in maternal and neonatal health across various states.

Conclusion and Endorsement

Bold Futures NM firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raquel Z. Rivera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raquel Z. Rivera, PhD
Senior Research and Grants Associate
Bold Futures NM



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, INC.
6870 North Federal Hwy
Boca Raton, FL 33487
561-394-5822 Fax: 561-394-5742

January 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

I am writing this letter as the director of the Midwifery Program at the International Institute for Health Care Professionals, a program which leads to licensure as a midwife in the State of Florida. I want to express strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

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Decreasing Health Disparities

Midwifery care is pivotal in decreasing health disparities, especially in underserved and marginalized communities. CPMs often provide culturally sensitive and personalized care, which is crucial in addressing the unique health needs of diverse populations. They are known for building trusting relationships with patients, leading to better health outcomes in communities that historically have less access to quality healthcare. Expanding midwifery services through interstate compacts would further enable midwives to reach these communities, effectively working towards reducing health disparities in maternal and neonatal care.

Improving Outcomes

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Those of us at the Midwifery Program located within the International Institute for Health Care Professionals firmly believe that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Hilary Schlinger CNM, MS, CPM-ret

Midwifery Program Director

hschlinger@iihcp.edu Direct line: 561-454-8987

International Institute for Health Care Professionals (IIHCP)

6850 N. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton, FL 33487

Main Desk/Admin: Ph: 561-394-5822 Fax: 561-394-5742



NACPM Letter of Support

Brynne Potter
VP Provider Community
Quilted Health
1329 N 47TH ST UNIT 31112
Seattle, WA 98103
brynne.p@quiltedhealth.com
434-962-5453

1/29/24

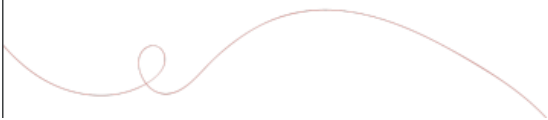
To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate
Compacts

I am writing this letter on behalf of Quilted Health to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

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Support for Military Spouses

Military families often face unique challenges due to frequent relocations. The current state-specific licensure requirements for midwives create unnecessary hurdles for military spouses who are Certified Professional Midwives, hindering their ability to continue their practice and provide for their families. Interstate compacts would greatly alleviate these challenges, supporting the career continuity of military spouses in this vital profession.

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Improving Outcomes

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Conclusion and Endorsement

Quilted Health firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.


We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,



**Brynne Potter, VP Provider Community
Quilted Health**



CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY



Letter of Support for NACPM's Application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts

January 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Changing Woman Initiative to express our strong support for the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM) in their application to the National Center for Interstate Compacts. NACPM's endeavor to develop new interstate compacts for occupational licensure in midwifery is commendable and vital for addressing several pressing issues in maternal health care.

Critical Need for Interstate Compacts in Midwifery

The lack of licensure reciprocity across state lines contributes significantly to the growing problem of obstetric and midwifery deserts in the United States. These are areas where childbearing people have limited or no access to essential pregnancy and birth health services. The ability for midwives to practice across state borders without the burden of obtaining multiple state licenses is critical in filling these gaps and ensuring that all women and gender-diverse people, regardless of their location, have access to quality midwifery care.

Support for Military Spouses

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Midwifery care is pivotal in decreasing health disparities, especially in underserved and marginalized communities. CPMs often provide culturally sensitive and personalized care, which is crucial in addressing the unique health needs of diverse populations. They are known for building trusting relationships with patients, leading to better health outcomes in communities that historically have less

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Phone: 505-954-1546, Fax: 505-393-5165; www.cwi-health.org

access to quality healthcare. Expanding midwifery services through interstate compacts would further enable midwives to reach these communities, effectively working towards reducing health disparities in maternal and neonatal care.

Improving Outcomes

The positive impact of midwifery care on maternal and neonatal outcomes is well-documented. Studies show that midwives contribute to higher rates of successful vaginal births, reducing the prevalence of cesarean deliveries, which carry higher risks of complications. Additionally, midwifery care is associated with higher breastfeeding rates, which offers numerous health benefits for both the infant and the birthing person. Midwives' focus on holistic and preventive care also improves maternal and neonatal health. Interstate compacts would allow more families and birthing individuals to access these benefits, enhancing the quality of care and outcomes in maternal and neonatal health across various states.

Conclusion and Endorsement

Changing Woman Initiative firmly believes that the work of NACPM in establishing interstate compacts for midwifery will be a significant step forward in enhancing maternal healthcare in our nation. It aligns with our collective goal of providing comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for all.

We urge the National Center for Interstate Compacts to recognize the importance and urgency of NACPM's application and to support them in transforming and improving the landscape of maternal health care.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,



Carolina Nkouaga, MPH, LM, CPM
Director of Midwifery
Changing Woman Initiative