



May 19, 2011

The Honorable Phil Gingrey
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gingrey:

On behalf of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM), representing certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) throughout the United States, I am writing to express support for the *"Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act" (H.R.5)*.

Members of ACNM are primary health care providers to women throughout the lifespan. They perform physical exams; prescribe medications; order laboratory tests; provide prenatal, gynecologic, labor, birth, and newborn care; and provide health education and counseling to women of all ages. Learn more about midwives at www.midwife.org.

ACNM is committed to resolving the professional liability crisis and supports legislation which would cap non-economic damages, limit the number of years in which a plaintiff may file a health care liability action, and place reasonable limits on punitive damages. ACNM supports your bill, but we would encourage expanding alternative dispute resolution methods; they are an important aspect of liability reform that should be utilized whenever possible. Alternative dispute resolution initiatives have many benefits for both the plaintiff and the defense, including confidentiality, collaboration, flexibility, and decreased cost.

ACNM thanks you for your efforts to pursue professional liability reform and considers H.R.5 a positive step forward. We look forward to working with you and your staff. Should you have any questions, please contact Patrick Cooney, ACNM's Federal Representative, at 202-347-0034 or via email at patrick@federalgrp.com.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Kline Kaplan
Executive Director