



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 4, 2007

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES ENDORSES BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT

Silver Spring, MD – The **American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)**, a vocal advocate of breastfeeding for the first year and beyond, heartily endorses the Breastfeeding Promotion Act and applauds Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) for introducing this much-needed legislation. The Breastfeeding Promotion Act would lift barriers to breastfeeding and expressing milk faced by nursing mothers when they return to work.

ACNM promotes breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding. Breastfeeding soon after birth may reduce the risk of maternal blood loss and enhance maternal infant bonding. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months provides complete nutrition for growth and development and ideally breastfeeding should continue throughout the first year of life. Midwives frequently encounter women who stop breastfeeding their babies because when they return to work - as over 50% of mothers of infants in the United States do - mothers often worry that continuing to breastfeed or pump milk at work will jeopardize their employment.

In support of this bill, representatives from ACNM will attend the “Nurse-In” from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Cannon Terrace at New Jersey and Independence Avenues, SE, in Washington, DC.

ACNM’s breastfeeding website, **www.GotMom.org**, contains valuable information and guidance for nursing mothers, their families, and employers.

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For more information, please contact Rebecca Jacob, ACNM Communications Manager at (240) 485-1822 or via email at rjacob@acnm.org.

With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.