



The ACNM asks Congress to Cosponsor the Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (MOMS) Act

Bill Overview

- Addresses maternity care provider shortage with a goal of improving maternal and child health outcomes
- Establishes two new funding streams for accredited midwifery education programs under HRSA's Title VII Health Professions Training Program and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs
- Funds would be directed toward students who plan to practice in a maternity care provider shortage area and/or are from underrepresented minority groups, preceptors who train midwifery students, and the establishment or expansion of midwifery education programs

Background

- Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. are higher than any other developed nation¹ and are not improving.²
- Racial disparities exist within maternal health, especially among Black women. Factors which contribute to these disparities include implicit bias in the delivery of healthcare, a lack of access to health insurance, and social determinants of health such as racism, lack of housing and education, and food scarcity.^{3,4}
- 35% of U.S. counties have no maternity care services, and an additional 11% have limited access.²
- Midwives are underutilized in the U.S. health system due to restrictive supervisory and collaborative practice requirements, restrictions in prescriptive privileging and hospital credentialing, and a shortage of preceptors and clinical sites to train midwifery students.⁵
- Although midwives educated and qualified based on international standards can provide 87% of services needed by mothers and their newborns, they only attend approximately 9% of U.S. births.⁶
- Midwives are educated in fewer years and at a lower cost when compared to obstetricians.

Research Findings

- Up to 50% of maternal deaths could be prevented based on quality-of-care improvements at the patient, system, and provider levels.⁷
- Racially concordant midwife-patient dyads can result in increased trust and improved birth outcomes.^{4,8}
- Studies have found that women cared for by midwives have excellent birth outcomes, high levels of satisfaction, and lower costs due to fewer unnecessary interventions.⁵

Potential Solution: Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (MOMS) Act

- Legislation has been developed by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) to:
 - Scale up and diversify the midwifery workforce.
 - Improve maternal child health outcomes, especially among underrepresented minority women.

Contact Information

- To become a cosponsor, please contact Debbie Jessup in Rep. Roybal-Allard's office at Debbie.Jessup@mail.house.gov or Rachel Thompson in Rep. Herrera Beutler's office at Rachel.Thompson@mail.house.gov.
- For questions or additional information about the bill, please contact Amy Kohl, ACNM Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, at AKohl@acnm.org
- Find out more about midwifery care [here](#)

References

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