

# Top 10 Ways to Influence Congress to Enact Equitable Reimbursement under Medicare

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The following is a guide of 10 concrete actions you can take to help pass legislation that will provide equitable payment under the Medicare program for midwifery services (S.507/H.R.864). (See the article about the bill on page 1.)

## Write A Letter

ACNM has prepared a letter that you can mail or email to your federal representatives. ACNM's grassroots network can be found at <http://capwiz.com/acnm/home/>.

Write your own letter and mail it to your elected representatives in Washington, D.C. If you do not know your elected officials, you can go to the following link on ACNM's grassroots network and input your zip code to find out: <http://capwiz.com/acnm/dbq/officials/>.

## The QuickInfo Series is Growing!

Visit [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org) and click "Continuing Education and Practice Resources" to view new and updated informative QuickInfo documents on:

Career Development  
Caring for Men  
Certification of Midwives  
Cost Effectiveness  
Disaster Preparedness  
Reentry to Midwifery Practice  
Immunizations

## Make A Call

The House and Senate operator can be reached at (202) 225-3121. Ask to be connected with the offices of your elected officials and ask to speak with the Legislative Assistant handling health care matters. Describe the legislation to this person (talking points can be found at [http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/Talking\\_Points\\_3.06.pdf](http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/Talking_Points_3.06.pdf)) and request that the Member of Congress cosponsor S.507/H.R.864.

## Tell A Friend

Help ACNM educate and inform other CNMs/CMs and health care professionals. Ask your colleagues to write a letter or make a call to their elected representatives.

## Contact a Local Organization for Support

CNMs/CMs need to reach out to community partners for their support. Obtaining support within your community for S.507/H.R.864 can go a long way to convincing your legislator to support the legislation.

## Arrange to Visit Your Legislator(s) in Washington or in Your Home State

ACNM encourages you to develop a personal relationship with your legislators and a good way to start that is by requesting a meeting in their Washington, D.C. or state office. Here is a link to information about scheduling visits: [http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/How\\_to\\_Schedule\\_Visits\\_on\\_Capitol\\_Hill.pdf](http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/How_to_Schedule_Visits_on_Capitol_Hill.pdf).

## Contribute to Midwives Political Action Committee (Midwives PAC)

Political action is an important way to enhance the visibility of CNM/CM services while supporting legislators who have demonstrated support for the profession. Returning these legislators to Congress is

critically important. You can support the Midwives PAC by giving on line at <http://www.acnm.org/legislative.cfm?id=205>.

## Give Your Legislator(s) a Tour

Educating your legislator(s) about the role the CNMs/CMs play in the delivery of quality women's health care is critical. Invite your elected representatives for a tour of your clinic, hospital, or birth center. You will find that they are very receptive to touring places where a good crowd or press can be gathered.

## Host a Fundraiser for a Legislator

Midwives PAC stands ready to assist those CNMs/CMs that are interested in taking the next step in political action – hosting a fundraiser for a Member of Congress. Please see the ACNM Political Action Toolkit for more information. [http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/MidwivesPAC\\_Toolkit\\_3.06.pdf](http://www.acnm.org/siteFiles/legislative/MidwivesPAC_Toolkit_3.06.pdf)

## Ask State Legislators to Weigh In With Federal Legislators

CNMs/CMs have developed good relations with state legislators that can have an influence on their friends in Congress. Consider talking to your close allies in the state legislature about contacting federal officials on your behalf.

## Recruit a Member of ACNM and Help Continue the Battle for Equitable Reimbursement

Vital to the success of this year's campaign is the involvement of every CNM/CM across the nation. Just by being a member of ACNM you are helping the cause. Please ask fellow midwives to join ACNM. Find out more at <http://www.acnm.org/members.cfm?id=119>.



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