Nurse-Midwives of America — NMOA

POLICY BRIEF
Practice authority

Full Practice Authority for Nurse-Midwives

Nurse-midwives already have full practice authority in 37 states and D.C., more than nurse practitioners (27 states and D.C.). Obstetricians support extending it to every state.

OBSTETRICIANS AND NURSE-MIDWIVES AGREE

ACOG supports full practice authority for nurse-midwives

"National uniformity in full practice authority and licensure across all states."

Joint Statement of Practice Relations, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and American College of Nurse-Midwives, revised and reaffirmed November 2022. The statement calls obstetrician-gynecologists and nurse-midwives licensed, independent clinicians. Nationally, ACOG does not advocate for statutory requirements for collaborative practice agreements.

Where the states stand

■	**Full practice authority** AK AZ AR CA CT DC DE HI IA ID KS MA MD ME MI MN MT ND NH NM NV NY OR RI UT WA WI WY	**28**
■	**Full practice after a transition period** CO FL IL KY NC OK SD VA VT WV	**10**
□	**Collaborative agreement required** AL IN LA MO MS NJ OH PA SC TN TX	**11**
⬚	**Physician supervision required** GA NE	**2**

What happens in full practice states

4.85 vs 2.17	nurse-midwives per 1,000 births, more than double
46% vs 39%	of counties have a midwife
34% vs 28%	of rural hospitals have nurse-midwives attending births
13% lower	odds of cesarean and preterm birth

Full practice means no required physician supervision or signed agreement. Nurse-midwives stay graduate-educated, board-certified, and state-licensed, and still consult, refer, and transfer care when a patient needs a physician.

OUR ASK

Give nurse-midwives full practice authority, so every family can get maternity care close to home.

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Sources: ACOG/ACNM Joint Statement of Practice Relations (rev. 2022); Nebraska Section of ACOG, letter to the 407 Review Committee (2026); state statutes and regulations, reviewed November 2026; AANP state practice environment; Yang et al. 2016; Ranchoff & Declercq 2020; Kozhimannil et al. 2016; FTC (2014); National Academies, Future of Nursing 2020–2030 (2021).