

Advanced Practice Clinicians in Abortion Care Acknowledged as Safe and Effective Providers

NSRH applauds the American College of Nurse-Midwives' (ACNM) newly announced Position Statement "[Midwives as Abortion Providers](#)," released the week after the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Report "[The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States](#)."

The American College of Nurse Midwives represents Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives in the United States and their new Position Statement acknowledging, validating, and supporting "[Midwives as Abortion Providers](#)" and abortion as a vital component of sexual and reproductive healthcare is an important endorsement of the role of midwives in abortion care.. This document unequivocally declares midwives can provide and have an important role in abortion care, and further outlines the College's approach to ensure access to abortion care as part of its organizational mission. In conjunction with its recently revised and updated Position Statement "[Comprehensive Access to Reproductive and Sexual Health Care](#)," the ACNM joins other organizations, policy advocates, and legislative teams who are working to increase access to abortion training, ensure APCs practice to their full scope, and improve access to care nationwide.

Research repeatedly shows outcomes, satisfaction, and quality of care provided by midwives and other Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs, an umbrella term for CNMs, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants) are [equal to](#), if not [exceeding](#), the care provided by, our physician colleagues. The ACNM statement and NASEM report validate the safety and efficacy of abortion care provided by APCs.

APCs are frontline primary care providers in rural and remote communities across the United States, many of which lack providers, clinics, and have significant restrictions to abortion care. Of note from the NASEM report is attention to the quality of abortion care depending on the patient's geographic location. "The quality of care is optimal when the care is based on current evidence and when trained clinicians are available to provide abortion services." Further, the report directly addresses legislative barriers to good care, calling out federal, state, and local regulations which define clinical qualifications of abortion providers and the types of procedures they are permitted to perform. In summary, restrictions to qualified, safe providers, including APCs, restricts abortion access.

The work of NSRH and our allies to expand access to abortion and allow APCs to practice within their full scope continues. Recent successes in expanding legal and safe abortion provision and access include [California's Assembly Bill 154 authorizing APCs to perform manual vacuum aspiration](#), and [Illinois' HB40 bill which permits public aid insurance to cover abortion services](#). We are optimistic about more successes to come with ACLU's open cases in [Maine](#) and [Montana](#) to contest state regulations preventing Advanced Practice Clinicians from providing abortion care within their scopes of practice. The ACNM Position Statement is an important part of the advocacy agenda of NSRH and allied organizations.

Thank you to all the clinicians who have provided years of safe high-quality abortion care that led to this report's conclusions. NSRH is proud to partner in this work to support training, advocacy, and to raise our voices for sexual and reproductive healthcare. [Donate to our work here](#).

In solidarity,

Stephanie Tillman, CNM
Chair, Board of Directors
Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health
Board of Directors
Midwest Access Project

[Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) envisions a world in which all people have access to just and dignified full-spectrum reproductive and sexual health care. Our mission is to provide students, nurses and midwives with education and resources to become skilled care providers and social change agents in sexual and reproductive health and justice.

Find our amazing collaborating organizations and their work here

- [National Abortion Federation](#) and [Clinicians for Choice](#)
- [Innovating Education in Reproductive Health](#)
- [Midwest Access Project](#)
- [ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project](#)