

Testimony in Support – House Bill 351 – Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives  
– Previous Cesarean Section

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in favor of HB351.

In 2012 we were blessed with our first child. Our son was delivered by cesarean section after 24 hours of unsuccessful labor. It was an unpleasant experience to say the least.

In 2014, 8 months into pregnancy with our second child, our doctor told us that we would need to schedule a cesarean section, after he had already assured us earlier on that a TOLAC would be fine.

We scrambled to find a doctor that would stick to the original plan. We found a doctor and our second son was born vaginally after a successful TOLAC. It was flawless.

In the following few years we were blessed with a 3rd boy and a little girl who were also delivered via smooth and super successful VBAC births, despite the seemingly increasing discomforts associated with hospital births and procedures.

When we found out we were having our 5th child we decided to have a home birth. We thought it would be more comfortable and take a lot of stress out of the process for us.

We found a midwife that we were absolutely comfortable with, only to find out that she could not help us because our first son was born of cesarean section and the midwife we found and loved was a CPM and not a CNM. This law made no sense to us, especially since all the midwives we spoke to whether they were a CNM or CPM seemed equally as knowledgeable and qualified in the field.

We ended up finding a suitable CNM who we were comfortable with as a second choice and our 2nd daughter was born in the comfort of our home without any issues at all.

There is no reason we should not be able to choose the Midwife we are most comfortable with in the future.

Please support Maryland families and vote yes on HB351.

Sincerely,  
Nathan and Esther Grayman  
3913 Labyrinth Rd,  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
410-905-8047