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My name is Karen Webster. I live in Chesapeake City, MD. I have been attending births since 1979 and in my own practice since 1987. I have been a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) since 1995. I am licensed in both Delaware & Maryland. I have been keeping prospective statistics on my practice since the year 2000.

I was a partner in a busy practice In Philadelphia from 2003 to 2010 and during that time we had an **84.2 % success rate for home vaginal births for women with previous c-sections, or VBACs.**

Over the past 500 births in my recent practice, **96.4% of all births were vaginal; 91.0% of all births were homebirths; first time mothers accounted for 26.4% of clients.**

I have seen a trend in first time parents/clients choosing homebirths, and one of the reasons given is that they want to avoid a **primary cesarean section**, and they have learned that their best option for avoiding a c-section is to give birth at home with a midwife .

My overall c-section rate has remained steady at 3-4%, give or take, for the many years I've been a midwife.

My non-emergent transfer rate from home to hospital is 7.7% of the past 500 births, and 0.8% for urgent hospital transfers.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1032. In doing so you will increase options for the many women who have had previous c-sections to have safe, competent care for VBACs. I would love to see Maryland join the numerous other states that include VBACs in the scope of practice for their licensed Certified Professional Midwives.

Respectfully,

Karen S Webster, CPM, LM