

I am writing to share my support for HB1202 as a member of the Birth Companions program at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Doulas provide essential services to their clients and have the training and understanding to safely follow COVID protocols. It has been incredibly difficult to provide doula support remotely over the past year. Being in hospitals with our clients will help laboring persons throughout Maryland have more positive, healthy, safe birthing experiences, especially during this difficult and unprecedented time. We provide emotional support that is invaluable to our clients and their families, which simply cannot be replicated over the phone or via Zoom. Please pass HB1202 to protect laboring persons and their children across Maryland.

-Rachel Milkovich, Birth Companions Program, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing