

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of HB1032 – Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Previous
Cesarean Section

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass:

My name is Haley Dye. 2.5 years ago I had a home birth that resulted in a transfer to the hospital. No medical emergency, I was fine, my baby was fine. Blood pressure and heart rates were perfect for both of us. I had simply been pushing too long. According to Maryland state law, midwives must transfer clients to the hospital after 3 hrs. We thought that I would transfer and then able to finish pushing in triage. When I arrived the OR had already been booked and the OBGYN on call was rude and pushy and eventually coerced me into a cesarean.

When everything was over, I of course was over joyed with my baby. I was sad that my birth had taken a complete turn and ended with a cesarean. But I knew that I could get over that.

What devastated me was that my next birth would be a VBAC and I would not have the chance to birth at home again and my pregnancy would look drastically different.

The prenatal care that I received from my midwives was superb. I was able to develop a lasting relationship with them. My appointments were stress free and at home. They would sit with me for an hr and listen to my concerns, my fears and they took meticulous notes on every symptom. They were constantly on call for me by text, or phone any time I had a question or concern.

My midwives and I did everything responsibly that night. And I have no doubt that we would do the same if we were able to try for a VBAC.

Please consider legalizing VBACs for CPM's in Maryland. CNM's who attend home births in MD are scarce. And none of them will attend births on the eastern shore.

With my birth, I experienced a home birth all the way through the pushing phase. I also experienced what it was like to birth in the hospital. I tell you— I am far more comfortable and feel that it would be safer for me to try for a VBAC at home, than in the hospital where it is not truly supported.

Thank you for take the time to read this.

Haley Dye

Mother of a 2.5 yr old, Doula and owner of THRIVE Birth Services of Delmarva LLC.