

02/26/2023

To: The Honorable Melony Griffith Chair Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building 3 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 376 Expansion of LDEM/CPM scope of practice to include Clients seeking TOLAC/VBAC providers who meet established criteria set forth in the bill

My name is Roxann Gordon I have been a R.N. for 22 years and a C.N.M. for 17 years and am currently Chairperson of the LDEM Advisory Committee of the Maryland Board of Nursing.

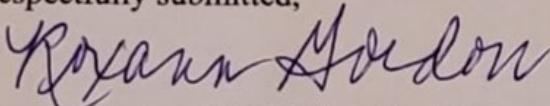
I am here today to support this bill based on my years of experience attending births in birth centers, hospitals and at home. I am one of the few CNMs- Certified Nurse Midwives in Maryland offering out of hospital Midwifery services and I am faced on a weekly basis with turning away women and families who are seeking a health care provider for TOLAC/VBAC.

Testimony and statistics compiled and presented to the committee show that for low risk clients who meet guidelines of only 1 C/Section/surgical birth- documented LTSC incision with an 18 month interval between last birth and due date of current pregnancy are acceptable candidates for out of hospital birth TOLAC/VBAC with Midwifery Care.

Due to the testimony given here today, the issues related to Autonomy, Access and Acceptable risk its evident that we need more providers in the community to meet the demand of women and families seeking birth options, and access to safe qualified, trained Midwives of all educational pathways. This need is not being met by area hospital institutions whose VBAC success rates average 7-15 % versus 70-85 % success rates for Homebirth Midwives in Maryland.

Many hospital guidelines/protocols in Maryland do not support VBAC. Individual physicians can be anti-VBAC due to their beliefs and liability concerns. Increased healthcare costs for surgical birth are well known. As Women continue to fight for choice, for birth options and reproductive rights across the country I ask our Maryland Senate and the committee members to follow the lead of our new Governor Wes Moore in protecting the rights of women to choose how, where and with whom families choose for their healthcare provider and to increase access to these much needed services that can be safely provided by CPM/LDEM Midwives.

Respectfully submitted,



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