

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:

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 376 which will allow increased birth options for Maryland Families.

SB376 allows women to access qualified birth providers of their choice, in their communities. Currently, the majority of counties in Maryland do not have hospitals where women can reliably access care for vaginal birth after cesarean section (VBAC). SB376 would allow Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (LDEM) to provide that care to Maryland families just as they already do in more than 26 other states.

Maryland has a cesarean rate of over 30%, and closer to 40% for women of color. This means that more than a third of Maryland women are limited in their ability to choose a birth provider for subsequent pregnancies. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) states that VBAC is a safe and responsible option for most women with a prior cesarean. SB376 is an important tool for increasing maternity care access and options for women across Maryland.

Please support Maryland families by voting 'Yes' on Senate Bill 376!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chaffee  
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Ellicott City, MD 21042