

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 22, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: House Bill 351 – Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Previous Cesarean Section

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

I support House Bill 351 because this bill will help decrease the high cesarean rate in MD, and also decrease the unnecessary medical interventions that low-risk moms are pressured into at the hospital. Allowing Certified Professional Midwives to assist in VBACS will allow mothers a wide range of access to midwives, so they are able to give birth the way they want to. I had a cesarean almost two years ago due to my son being breech. I plan to have another child. I am going to pursue having a VBAC. I do not want to give birth in a hospital setting, as I have had a traumatic experience in the past.

This bill being passed will allow me to have more selection of midwives to assist me in my birthing process, as there is a limited number of Certified Nurse Midwives in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Brittany Dennis