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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:

My name is Brittany Coffman and I'm a Maryland licensed Direct Entry Midwife as well as a Maryland Board Certified Physician Assistant. I support families choosing home birth in Frederick County, and I'm so grateful to be able to provide this service to the community in which I live. As a practitioner who has worked in hospitals, clinics, in surgery, family practice, speciality, and now in the homebirth community; I can tell you that the level of care and attention that homebirth midwives provide is exemplary.

As midwives who specialize in low risk, healthy clients, we are able to help hospitals prioritize higher need patients. This is especially important in the last few years, when the pandemic has stretched our medical system thin. Our hospital providers are doing such important work, but within our scope of practice there is a definitely lacking in our legislation to include clients who have had a previous cesarean birth.

The chance of [uterine rupture](#) with a low-transverse or bikini-cut incision is anywhere from 0.2% to 1.4%. We can reduce risks by proper evaluation and management. Repeat cesareans come with serious risks. Please help us keep this portion of our community low risk and thriving!

Warmly,  
Brittany Coffman