

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Re: House Bill 838 Health Occupations – Licensed Direct–Entry Midwives – Revisions  
and Senate Bill 854 Health Occupations – Licensed Direct–Entry Midwives – Revisions  
Position: Favorable

My name is Molly Leibovitch and I am writing to you to ask you to support and vote favorably on HB 838 and SB 854.

These bills help clean up the practice act for Licensed Direct Entry Midwives in the state of Maryland. LDEMs have been established, professional, and safe providers now for ten years and deserve to have more practice autonomy and less restriction, like other independent healthcare practitioners.

I am a passionate advocate for midwifery care. Midwives play a vital role in ensuring safe, professional, and compassionate maternity care for families across our state. Their expertise, holistic approach, and deep respect for the birth process make them an invaluable part of our healthcare system.

Midwives are highly trained professionals who provide comprehensive prenatal, birth, and postpartum care. Studies consistently show that midwifery-led care results in excellent health outcomes, including lower rates of unnecessary medical interventions, reduced cesarean births, and improved maternal satisfaction. I firmly believe that midwives are not only safe but are essential in fostering a model of care that prioritizes informed decision-making and personalized Attention.

On a personal note, my most recent home birth was a natural and beautiful experience. Given the length of my labor, had I chosen a hospital birth under the care of a medical doctor, it is likely that I would have faced a cesarean section. In contrast, a close friend of mine gave birth the following day in a hospital setting and underwent a cesarean due to a prolonged labor. I am deeply grateful for my decision to work with a skilled midwife, as it allowed me to safely deliver my baby naturally, in the right time, without unnecessary medical intervention.

Unfortunately, access to midwifery services is often limited by outdated regulations and insurance barriers. I urge you to support policies that protect and expand access to midwifery care, including licensure recognition, fair reimbursement, and integration into the broader healthcare system. Ensuring that families have the right to choose midwifery care is a step toward a more equitable, safe, and respectful maternity care system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will stand with families like mine in supporting midwives and their invaluable work. Please let me know how I can assist in advocating for this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Molly Leibovitch, 2719 Smith Ave. Baltimore, MD 21209