

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

My name is Ashley Meredith McGuirk 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.

My experience with midwifery care in Maryland has been nothing short of spectacular. The last five years I have been blessed with four children. All of which were born smoothly and safely under the care of my midwives in my own home. Each birth was transformative and life changing because of the love and care I received from my midwifery team. Ultrasounds, blood work, birth support groups, holistic alternatives, and community gatherings are just a handful of the examples of care I received. I never felt forgotten or rushed during any of my midwife appointments. It's what healthcare should feel like from beginning to end. From eight weeks pregnant and beyond my midwives have been there for me and my family with every question and concern. I have been to a variety of wonderful health care providers in my time but none of them have provided me with this level of care and professionalism.

I hope and pray that every mother receives this level of care during their pregnancies. Mothers are the backbone of our civilization and deserve the love and care they so freely give back to their friends, families and communities. Midwives are a key component to a mother's health from the beginning of a pregnancy until a year postpartum. This is why they hold such an important role in our society. I cannot stress enough how incredible my experience working with midwives has been. They go beyond what they are asked in a way that is both compassionate and professional.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Ashley McGuirk
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