



## Maryland Section

Seante Finance Committee

February 25, 2025

Senate Bill 854 – *Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Revisions*

### **POSITION: SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, supports Senate Bill 854 only if the legislation is amended.

Senate Bill 854 proposes a number of changes to the licensure requirements and scope of practice for Direct-Entry Midwives (DEM). The current statutory requirements were the subject of significant debate when originally adopted. While MDACOG recognizes that many of the proposed changes are clarifying and/or address administrative issues that have not been as effective as originally adopted, a number of the provisions significantly change the scope of practice of DEMs and if adopted would put pregnant women and their newborns at increased risk for negative health outcomes or even death.

Examples of these concerning provisions include moving various maternal and fetal health conditions, such as severe anemia, significant fetal congenital anomaly, and pre-pregnancy body mass index of specified levels, from a requirement for transfer of care to a requirement to consult with a health care practitioner. MDACOG is also concerned about proposed changes to the required timeframe for notifying a pediatric provider of the birth of a child and proposed changes to the exact wording of certain conditions.

MDACOG recognizes that Senate Bill 854 is intended to update and clarify existing statutory requirements for DEMs and is willing to work with all interested stakeholders to achieve those objectives. However, while MDACOG agrees with some of the proposed changes, without the adoption of amendments that address their concerns and objections as outlined above, they are unable to support the legislation. MDACOG, therefore, urges an unfavorable report unless the legislation is amended.

#### **For more information call:**

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