

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 Rifka Cohen, 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 have had 4 births all have been attended by midwives, they have been more competent and knowledgeable and caring than many of my OBGYN's. They have a calm and capable way of making an expectant mother feel protected and very well cared for in one of the most vulnerable time's in a mother's life. Having someone who is not only caring but positive and professional at your disposal is a must have for every expectant mother. Mothers should have free choice as to whom their provider will be and where care will be given. It is a basic necessity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Rifka Cohen, 3404 Old Post Dr, Pikesville, MD 21208