

**Dr. Jennifer Davis Alexander**  
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The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

Testimony in Support  
House Bill 1251: Health Care Facilities and Medical Professional Liability Insurers - Obstetric Services Policies (Doula and Birth Policy Transparency Act)

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Davis Alexander, and I am a mom of 3. I am writing to express my strong support for midwifery care. As a mother of three, I have experienced firsthand the difference that compassionate, transparent, and patient-centered care can make in the birth experience.

My first two births took place in a hospital setting, where I was rushed into surgery with little explanation and met with pushback from medical doctors when asking important questions about my care. As a Black woman, I knew I needed a different experience for my third pregnancy given the well-documented disparities in Black maternal health outcomes.

I firmly believe that all women should have access to accurate data and full transparency regarding the tests and procedures performed during pregnancy. Too often, decisions are made for us without adequate explanation, leaving expectant mothers feeling powerless in one of the most sacred times of their lives. Informed consent should not be optional, it should be the standard of care.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with us in advocating for a maternity care system that prioritizes respect, equity, and true informed choice.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Jennifer Davis Alexander  
Mom of 3