

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 Dr. Sheina Hollander 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 writing to you about my birth experience using Tova Brody's (CPM, LDEM) midwife services. This was my third birth and my first home birth and it was everything and more that I could have hoped for. From the beginning, Tova took care of me, she assessed my health and wellbeing throughout pregnancy and I felt completely taken care of. Tova has the utmost competence and professionalism in regard to conducting her prenatal visits, taking labs, discussing prenatal health, labor, and delivery. She created a safe and warm environment to labor and deliver in the comfort of my own home with all of my needs and wishes tended to. Preparing for labor with Tova was calm and peaceful, I always had someone to ask my questions to and she took care of all of my prenatals and labs at home. From the moment my water broke and I was in active labor, Tova was there guiding me through the process. She knew I wanted to deliver in the pool and she cared for and respected my wishes. It was the most calm, safe, and serene experience my husband and I have ever had. My entire home birth experience felt safe and comfortable with Tova. Having access to a midwife in the state of Maryland provided me with the most safe, comfortable, and serene birth experience I could have ever anticipated for myself and my baby. Every woman in the state of Maryland should have access to these incredible healthcare practitioners for their prenatal, labor/delivery, and postnatal care.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheina Hollander, PT, DPT

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