



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 25th, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 240
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 664 – Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 664 - HB 664 – Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions. This is a clean-up bill that matches the disciplinary options the Board has for Direct-Entry Midwives with those that it has for all other professions under its jurisdiction.

In 2014, this body passed [HB 908](#) which, among other things, extended the Board's options when granting licenses to applicants who had violated the Nurse Practice Act to include granting a license subject to reprimand, probation or suspension. Before this bill was passed, the Board's only option when dealing with such cases was to deny licensure, eliminating candidates from the pool of nurses the State could rely on, and punishing rule-breakers beyond what the Board felt was necessary. This change has been beneficial not only to the Board, but to patients and practitioners as well.

Since the bill was passed, Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (LDEM) were added to the Board's governed professions, but these options were left out of the statute which created their licensure category. This bill simply matches the LDEM statute to that of all other professions under the Board's jurisdiction. Again, the Board asks the committee for a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine Lechliter
Board President

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