

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk Chair,  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21st, 2025.

Re: House Bill 838 Health Occupations – Licensed Direct Entry Midwife - Revisions  
Position: Favorable

Dear Madam Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maureen Corriveau, and I am writing in support of HB838.

The act of allowing accessible midwifery care is at its core, respecting the woman's God-given gift of birthing humanity. It is fundamental in establishing a happier and healthier society to honor the mother's choices on how she would like to birth her baby for she is the literal building block of our society and future generations to come.

By honoring the mother's birth choices and her right to birth how she chooses, it opens up the door to a lifetime of empowerment, self-sufficiency, and self-love that she gains, and then models and bestows into her children. It is monumental to have midwifery care accessible and legalized for there is an undeniable demand, and it is growing louder every day.

This is a basic human right, and arguably the most important. This type of care supports the natural physiological birth process with the utmost caution guided by medical, scientific insights and a mother-focused eye that cannot be sourced from large scale hospitals and institutions. It can only be accessed from personal midwifery care that supports only a handful of clients in order to deliver the most meticulous and supportive care.

Women need these alternative options. The current medical system has and is currently failing to see the reality which is women as miracle workers giving birth and instead are indoctrinated to see and treat women as sick patients which leads to premature interventions and disruption to the birth process, causing trauma and irreversible physiological distress to both mother and child. This cannot be changed overnight which is why midwifery care options are instrumental and should be nonnegotiable.

Ask any mother today and she will share a traumatic experience of her own or one she knows of from a traumatic hospital birth. These negative, traumatic experiences bleed into society because when the mother is mistreated, the entire family struggles and suffers thus society as a whole suffers.

The midwifery care model offers another way. One that prioritizes the mother and cares for her like family which is what is needed in birthcare. This is not about profit and it never should be. This is about the safekeeping of our mothers and society as a whole. Please vote favorably on HB838 and prioritize accessible midwifery care today and everyday because every single day millions of mothers are performing miracles and pushing out future miracle workers. To ensure this continues, we have to protect the birth space, the midwifery model, and ultimately the woman's choice.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Corriveau  
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