



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 854 - Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions**

**Position: *Support***

April 1, 2025

House Health & Government Operations Committee

**MHA Position**

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 854.

As a member of the Direct-Entry Midwife Advisory Committee since its inception, MHA recognizes the vital role that midwives play in maternal and neonatal care. We value the care and compassionate approach to childbirth that licensed direct-entry midwives (LDEMs) can offer to women wanting a home birth and are committed to supporting birthing options that prioritize the safety of both the mother and the child.

Childbirth is inherently unpredictable, and even low-risk pregnancies can escalate into high-risk situations with little warning. While autonomy in practice can be empowering, it is crucial to consider the potential risks associated with home births, especially in the absence of collaborative medical support. Practicing in isolation—without collaboration, oversight, or structured protocols for consultation—can create avoidable risks for both mothers and newborns. As amended, this bill ensures that LDEMs have clear pathways for working in conjunction with other health care professionals and is reflective of our shared commitment to patient care and safety.

We appreciate the sponsor and other stakeholders for working closely with us over the last several weeks to discuss the concerns with the bill and for their receptiveness to our suggested amendments.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 854.

For more information, please contact:  
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