



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 838 - Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions

Hearing Date: February 25, 2025

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) support *House Bill 838 – Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Revisions* with amendments. The bill extends the sunset date for the licensure framework for direct-entry midwives to continue to practice in Maryland. The bill also provides clarifications and updates for practice requirements for direct-entry midwives.

ACNM strongly supports extending the sunset date for the licensure of direct entry midwives. Maryland does not have enough midwifery providers, and it is critical to ensure licensed qualified providers can continue to practice. ACNM also supports updates to Maryland’s statute to ensure direct-entry midwives can practice within the scope of their education and training. Maryland’s law has some restrictions that unnecessarily limit Marylander’s access to direct entry midwifery services. For example, Maryland’s law has a lengthy list of patient health conditions which would preclude a direct-entry midwife would be precluded from providing treatment. In some cases, direct-entry midwives should be allowed to provide midwifery services in consultation with another healthcare provider.

ACNM believes some amendments would be appropriate in two areas of the bill: 1) the provision related to treatment when there is a fetal congenital abnormality; and 2) requirements for notice of delivery to the newborn’s pediatrician. We understand that there are ongoing stakeholder discussions about those provisions, and we would be happy to contribute to that discussion.

If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.