

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 Dana Sicherman and I live in 20902, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

I am writing to ask for your support with regard to HB 838 and SB 854, and to share with you my personal experience with a Licensed Direct Entry Midwife.

I reached out to Tova Brody, CPM, LDEM when I found out that I was expecting our fifth child. Having previously had hospital births for our other four children, I was really hopeful that for our fifth we would be able to have a home birth. Tova Brody came very highly recommended by a few friends who are very near and dear to me.

We had our initial appointment with her and my husband, who had a very healthy amount of skepticism about the idea of homebirth, was expecting our first meeting with Tova Brody to be similar to someone who practiced witchcraft. Much to his surprise, on the other end of our meeting he found a very credentialed and experienced medical professional who puts the care of the mother and baby before all other things. We were so excited to start our journey towards a homebirth!

My experience working with Tova Brody, as well as the midwife who accompanied her to support me on the actual day of birth and for postnatal care, Nikki Williams, was something that I had never encountered in my more than 35 years of receiving medical services within the healthcare system. The level of attention and care that I received went far above anything comparable that I had experienced in my entire life. I learned, for the first time, what actual informed consent means by practicing it through her. I was so well attended to during my prenatal visits and I could not have felt more cared for during the birth itself, and in the weeks to follow. I have wholeheartedly recommended Tova to my nearest and dearest friends and family. And I will continue to do so without hesitation.

In my opinion as a mother of five, it is absolutely imperative that homebirth remains the viable safe option that it is. We are so incredibly lucky to have such amazing, credentialed, experienced, medical professionals available as an option for birthing families in Maryland.

Thank you so much to all the legislators for not only protecting, but ensuring our constitutional right to safe healthcare and healthcare choice. It is the very foundation that this country is established on and something that we should certainly not take lightly. I have endless gratitude for Tova Brody and everything that she does. I have complete trust in her, and while I would, without ever hesitating, use her again in the future, I know she works amongst a cohort of really incredible homebirth midwives within the Maryland community and they need this bill passed to continue doing the amazing work that is community midwifery care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dana Sicherman

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