

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Re: House Bill 838 Health Occupations – Licensed Direct–Entry Midwives – Revisions
and Senate Bill 854 Health Occupations – Licensed Direct–Entry Midwives – Revisions

My name is Elana Blumenthal and I am writing to you to ask you to support and vote favorable on HB 838 and SB 854.

These bills help clean up the practice act for Licensed Direct Entry Midwives in the state of Maryland. LDEMs have been established, professional, and safe providers now for ten years and deserve to have more practice autonomy and less restriction, like other independent healthcare practitioners.

I am a mother to five children, three of whom were born at home with highly qualified midwives. The midwives that attended my births were able to navigate any issue that came up with calm and ease. Two of my children had shoulder dystocia complications at birth but the midwives handled it swiftly, safely, calmly and professionally. I am so grateful that I was able to have these beautiful, respectful, and calm births in the comfort of my home with highly competent midwives.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Elana Blumenthal
6706 Chippewa Ct
Baltimore, MD 21209