



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison
House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report – SB 854 – Health Occupations Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Distinguished Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition and as an Advance Practice Registered Nurse, I write to recommend a **Favorable report** on this bill. The purpose of this legislation is to modernize language to better reflect the actual practice mid-wifery in 2025. This bill recognizes the midwifery care is independent and holistic. Care is provided to the individual during pregnancy and delivery, and to the newborn for a period of 72 hours. This care encompasses lactation assistance and monitoring of the individual over time: at 48 hours, 2 weeks and at 6 weeks to monitor overall physical and mental well-being.

Midwives typically provide a more personalized, holistic approach to birth, often focusing on natural birthing methods with less medical intervention, including lower rates of C-sections, and offering greater emotional support throughout the pregnancy journey. Midwives may incorporate alternative birthing techniques like positioning, breathing exercises, and relaxation methods into their care. While midwives prioritize natural birth, they are still trained to recognize and manage potential complications and can access medical interventions when necessary.

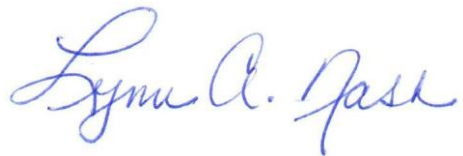
This bill provides an alternative type of care. The Maryland Military Coalition supports the intent of HB 843, expanding the independent practice of midwifery, and asks for a **FAVORABLE report**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Request for a **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 854 – Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry
Midwives -- Revisions

We want to thank Delegate Cullison and Senator Lewis Young for their on-going support of the nursing profession and **ALL** of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

1 Attachment – Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars