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The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

Testimony in Support
House Bill 838: Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Revisions

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Davis Alexander, and I am a mom of 3. I am writing to express my strong support for midwifery care. As a mother of three, I have experienced firsthand the difference that compassionate, transparent, and patient-centered care can make in the birth experience.

My first two births took place in a hospital setting, where I was rushed into surgery with little explanation and met with pushback from medical doctors when asking important questions about my care. As a Black woman, I knew I needed a different experience for my third pregnancy given the well-documented disparities in Black maternal health outcomes. Choosing midwifery care was one of the best decisions I made. It provided me with the respect, autonomy, and support I deserved, and it reaffirmed my belief that every woman should have access to a birth experience that makes her feel safe, seen, and supported.

Pregnancy is a sacred rite of passage, and every woman deserves the right to choose the birth setting and care model that aligns with her needs, values, and desires.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with us in advocating for a maternity care system that prioritizes respect, equity, and choice.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Jennifer Davis Alexander
Mom of 3