

JEN TERRASA  
Legislative District 13  
Howard County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 21, 2025

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa  
District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 664 Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Disciplinary Actions

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Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 664 which is a clean-up bill requested by the Board of Nursing.

HB 664 will match the Board's disciplinary capacity for Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (LDEMs) with that of all other professions under its jurisdiction. In 2014, the General Assembly passed HB 908, which expanded the Board's disciplinary authority to allow it to grant licenses that were subject to reprimand, probation or suspension to applicants who had in some way violated the Nurse Practice Act before their license had been granted. Before this bill was passed, the Board's only available action was to deny a candidate license, which shrunk the licensee pool and punished rulebreakers beyond what the Board thought necessary. These rule changes have been beneficial for the Board as well as our patients and nurses.

Since the passage of the 2014 bill, LDEMs were added to the Board's regulated occupations, but these provisions were not included in their statutes. This bill simply matches the disciplinary language in the LDEM statute to that of all other professions under the Board's jurisdiction.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or [mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov](mailto:mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov), or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or [rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

I respectfully urge a favorable report of HB 664.