



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 2, 2021

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 684 - Maryland Licensure of Certified Midwives Act

Dear Chair Pinsky:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to offer support for Senate Bill 684.

This legislation would expand the maternal health care workforce by allowing certified midwives to become licensed in Maryland. Certified midwives (CM) take the same graduate course work and must pass the same board certification exam as certified nurse midwives (CNM).¹ The only difference is that CMs do not obtain a nursing degree prior to pursuing graduate studies. SB 684 recognizes the identical midwifery training these maternal health professionals have.

When CMs and CNMs work collaboratively with obstetricians and gynecologists (OB/GYNs), they optimize care delivery.² The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends "increasing the number of OB/GYNs and CNMs/CMs utilizing interprofessional education to promote collaboration and team-based care."³ Studies show CMs and CNMs, working in interprofessional teams can reduce C-section rates and lessen the need to induce labor for first-time moms.⁴

Maryland hospitals support SB 684 because it would improve care for moms and babies and is a valuable tool to expand the maternal health care workforce. This bill also complements the state's ongoing work and commitment to reduce the rate of severe maternal morbidity and close the disparate rates of death and poor outcomes for Black moms.⁵

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 684.

For more information, please contact:
Jennifer Witten, Vice President, Government Affairs
Jwitten@mhaonline.org

¹ The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (April, 2018). "[Joint Statement of Practice Relations Between Obstetrician-Gynecologists and Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives](#)".

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health. (September 25, 2019). "[Using the Robson 10-Group Classification System to Compare Cesarean Birth Utilization Between US Centers With and Without Midwives](#)".

⁵ Maryland Department of Health. (April 6, 2020). "[Health-General Article, §13-1207, Annotated Code of Maryland - 2019 Annual Report – Maryland Maternal Mortality Review](#)".