

My concerns with HB 496 extend to both my personal and professional life.

On a personal basis, this bill affects me because I have had 4 prior c-sections before I got to have a vba4c in May of 2022. My concerns are based on other states who have become licensed in order to receive access to medications and/or insurance reimbursement, etc. only to extend to regulating births such as breeches, twins, and vbacs. These regulations have limited women's rights on where to birth. These regulations are pushing women in these categories to either return to a hospital setting and receive unnecessary surgeries, episiotomies, and other forms of obstetrical abuse or attempt freebirths. I believe I am very blessed to have been able to have a successful vaginal delivery after having 4 unnecessary c-sections. I was able to have a successful vbac because I was allowed to choose a midwife who was capable and skilled at her job, and didn't have to worry about answering to the board of nursing for taking on a case like mine. As the consumer, we need midwives who feel confident to provide care to those that need it, not midwives who are fearful to provide care because they have to answer to a board that is not experienced in natural physiological birth.

On a professional basis, I care deeply about this topic. I have spent more than three years training to be a direct entry midwife. To learn and practice the art of traditional midwifery and to serve those that need to be served. Midwifery is more than a job, it's a ministry. A place we get the honor to hold for those that ask us to. A ministry that shouldn't be tainted by politicians deciding who and what should be allowed in the homebirth setting. This bill would jeopardize my ability at serving women, and women being able to choose the care provider they feel best fits. Not only is our ministry as midwives being jeopardized, our families lives are being threatened by the weight of a felony looming over us.

If there is no current problem with the midwives in the state of Ohio, why add licensure? Do we try to fix something that isn't broken?