



**Committee:** House Judiciary Committee

**Bill Number:** HB 833

**Title:** Children in Need of Assistance - Parents in Substance Use Disorder Treatment

**Hearing Date:** February 15, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 833 - Children in Need of Assistance - Parents in Substance Use Disorder Treatment*. The bill establishes a presumption that placement with a child's parent is in the best interest of the child if the child's parent is receiving substance use disorder treatment.

In fiscal year 1992, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began administering and supporting grantees that initiated demonstration residential substance abuse treatment services for mothers and their young children. The grantees offered treatment to mothers who brought their children into residential facilities with them. Findings from programs like these have shown that women allowed to reside in residential treatment with their children — or have access to frequent visitation — often remain in treatment for longer periods of time, are more likely to complete treatment, and are less likely to have their children removed or remain out of the home.<sup>i</sup> Children are less likely to experience the significant and far-reaching negative outcomes associated with parental substance use disorders, including health problems, increased likelihood of mental health disorders, decreased emotional regulation, increased delinquency, and low academic performance.<sup>ii</sup>

This bill strives to keep children with their parents as parents go through the hard work of treatment. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> How can family-based residential treatment programs help reduce substance use and improve child welfare outcomes? <https://www.casey.org/family-based-residential-treatment/>

<sup>ii</sup> Hanson, K. E., Saul, D. H., Vanderploeg, J. J., Painter, M., & Adnopoz, J. (2015). Family-based recovery: An innovative in-home substance abuse treatment model for families with young children. *Child Welfare*, 94(4), 161-183. <https://www.casey.org/family-based-residential-treatment/>