



Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Bill Number: SB 682
Title: Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate
Hearing Date: February 26, 2020
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 682 – Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Requirement to Operate*. This bill would require the Commissioner to establish a pre-release correctional unit for women. Currently, the State is only authorized to do so, but is not required.

ACNM strongly supports ensuring that incarcerated individuals have the best opportunity possible to establish themselves as soon as they are released. This bill would ensure that women have access to pre-release services, providing the opportunity to obtain education, health care, and social support services. These services not only increase the chance of success upon release, they also lower the rate of recidivism for these women.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.