



Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Bill number: HB 524
Title: Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment
Hearing Date: February 11, 2020
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 524 – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Use Assessment and Treatment* with a technical amendment. The bill proposes that all pregnant incarcerated individuals be offered substance use disorder screening and treatment as well as receive appropriate referrals upon release.

ACNM is a strong supporter of ensuring that individuals have the services they need to remain healthy during pregnancy. If an individual is facing a substance use disorder issue, it is critical that they are offered the resources they need to address their own health issues as well as maintain a healthy pregnancy. This legislation ensures that pregnant individuals can obtain those services when they are incarcerated.

We are also supportive of the legislation’s requirement that pregnant individuals receive appropriate referrals upon release. We request a technical amendment as the bill language does not include all the licensed health care providers who provide prenatal services including clinical nurse specialists. Rather than listing out all the provider types, it may be simplest to:

On page 2 in line 11, strike “OR” and in line 12 insert “, OR OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER” after “ASSISTANT”

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.