



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 Technical Amendment

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 524 – Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment* with a technical amendment. The bill would require that substance abuse disorder screening and treatment be available for individuals who are incarcerated and pregnant. The bill would also require that appropriate referrals be made at the time of release.

MNA believes that every incarcerated individual should have access to that the health services they need to address all their health issues, including substance use disorders. It is especially important for pregnant individuals to have access to medication assisted treatment as it helps the individuals maintain their own health as well as a healthy pregnancy.

Upon release, it continues to be critical for individuals to be able to access services within their communities. To that end, MNA proposes a technical amendment to recognize all the providers of prenatal services. The bill does not recognize clinical nurse specialists, a type of advanced practice registered nurse who may provide prenatal services, or other types of health care providers, such as dietetic practitioners, who may provide critical services during pregnancy. Therefore, we suggest the following technical amendment:

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 with this technical amendment. If we can provide further assistance, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.