



**House Judiciary Committee
February 18, 2020**

**House Bill 608
Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Requirement to Operate**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 608. Women who are incarcerated and preparing to be released should have access to the same kind of supportive, rehabilitative programming that men do. Women, as well as men, need:

- Assistance in improving their physical health, and access to services to treat their mental health and substance use disorders;
- Assistance in improving their education, upgrading vocational skills, and obtaining suitable employment;
- The opportunity to strengthen family and community relationships through extended family leave; and
- Appropriate counseling, instruction, supervision, and medical and psychological treatment as necessary to help them achieve stable and productive roles in society.

Women deserve to have the same access to resources as men. Prerelease programs can give women increased opportunities for employment, while also easing the transition home by starting with the lower security pre-release unit where people have greater autonomy and responsibilities. This bill will support successful reentry for women, which means greater success with family reunification, stability in housing and employment, supported recovery, and a reduction in recidivism.

NCADD-Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 608.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.