



**Committee:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Bill number:** HB 235  
**Title:** Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment  
**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2021  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 524 – Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment*. 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.

We ask for a favorable report with this technical amendment. If we can provide further assistance, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.