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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

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

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 235 – Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment*. The bill would ensure that substance use disorder screening and treatment be offered to pregnant individuals who are incarcerated. It would also help ensure that pregnant individuals are connected to the health resources that they need upon release.

PPM believes that all individuals who are incarcerated should have access to the health care services that they need to be healthy. This legislation addresses an important area of unmet need for substance use disorder screening and treatment. Individuals who are pregnant should have the services that they need to maintain a healthy pregnancy. Substance use disorder treatment, including medication assisted treatment, is essential, but it is not always available in correctional facilities and local detention centers. This legislation will help address that gap by ensuring that these services are available to pregnant individuals.

The legislation also addresses the important issue of ensuring that individuals can identify health care resources in their communities upon release. Particularly with substance use disorder treatment, any gaps in care can place the patient at risk.

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