



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

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 235 – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Use Assessment and Treatment*. 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. Pregnant individuals dealing with substance use disorders have a critical need for resources 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. It is challenging to obtain prenatal care as there are provider shortages in many regions. To ensure that no gaps in care endanger the health of pregnant individuals and their children, structures that support coordination of care and a strong referral system when individuals are released from a correction facility are essential.

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.