



**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 37 - Services for Formerly Incarcerated Women – Commission and Pilot Program – Establishment

**Hearing Date:** March 26, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 37 - Services for Formerly Incarcerated Women – Commission and Pilot Program – Establishment*. The bill creates a Commission on Services for Formerly Incarcerated Women to draft a comprehensive plan for services for formerly incarcerated women and a Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Women to connect these women to support services.

Parental incarceration can have a significant impact on a child’s physical and emotional well-being. Children might experience behavioral and mental health issues, poor school performance, and financial hardship while their mother is incarcerated. Women who give birth while incarcerated have additional family-reunification needs, particularly if the jail or prison does not have programs in place to allow the child to remain with the mother after birth. When this relationship is disrupted, the infant is at risk of developing insecure and/or disorganized attachment styles, both of which are linked to poor developmental outcomes.

The Pilot Program created by this bill can direct women towards services to facilitate reunification and help families repair and maintain mother-child relationships which has benefits for the child, the mother, and the entire family. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.