



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: House Bill 935 – Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 935 – Correctional Services – Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services – Female Incarcerated Individuals*. This legislation moves Maryland toward a more appropriate prerelease model for women by establishing a dedicated women’s prerelease facility and ensuring comprehensive services are delivered in a timely manner.

Senate Bill 187 takes an important step to improve the health outcomes of women who are incarcerated. Women in Maryland’s correctional system experience higher rates of chronic health conditions, mental illness, and trauma than those who are not (National Institute of Justice, *Five Things to Know About Women and Reentry*). There is no existing center in Maryland providing prerelease programs specifically for incarcerated women. Without proper prerelease planning, these conditions frequently worsen upon release, creating ongoing challenges as women transition back into their communities.

ACNM members recognize that access to appropriate clinical care, mental health services, and continuity of care prior to release is crucial for successful reentry. Research shows that gender-responsive prerelease and reentry programs improve health outcomes and reduce the likelihood of returning to incarceration (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Correctional Health: Reentry*). Senate Bill 187 is critical as it appropriately requires these services to begin before release and includes measures to ensure timely implementation.

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