

**OFFICERS**

- ELIZABETH GREEN  
President
- ROBIN WEIMAN  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- AMALIA HONICK
- BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
- RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
- RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
- MELANIE SHAPIRO
- RABBI ANDREW BUSCH  
Past President
- HOWARD LIBIT  
Executive Director

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

- Adat Chaim Congregation
- American Jewish Committee
- Americans for Peace Now  
Baltimore Chapter
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
- American Red Magen David for Israel
- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of  
Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- B'nai Israel Congregation
- B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's  
Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
- J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah  
Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America  
Baltimore District

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**Senate Bill 858 – Firearm Safety – Storage Requirements and Youth  
 Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn’s Law)**

**Judiciary Committee**

**March 30, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

**Background:** Senate Bill 858 (SB858) would require gun owners to securely store their firearms so that unsupervised minors and prohibited persons are unable to gain access to them. Additionally, this bill would require the Department of Health to develop a youth suicide prevention and firearm safe storage guide, with recommendations from a stakeholder committee.

**Written Comments:** Since the beginning of the pandemic, accidental gunshot deaths by children handling a gun have increased by 31% according to a report by Everytown for Gun Safety. The report further details that and instances of children taking hold of a gun and mistakenly shooting themselves, or others happens almost every single day somewhere in the country. 91% of the victims in these cases were under the age of 18. It is estimated that 5.4 million children are living in a household with a least one loaded and unlocked gun. This is deadly combination for tragedy, which the consequences are already being realized. Most of these shootings take place in homes of the shooter, the victim, a relative or a friend. The solution to this rapidly growing problem is simple: properly locking firearms so that no child can access them.

As Jews we believe that nothing is more important than preserving life. Countless more tragedies involving young people will happen if they are able to continue to access guns in their own homes. Firearms do not belong in the hands of minors or prohibited persons.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB858.

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*