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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**House Bill 486 - Income Tax - Credit for Student Bus Transportation Expenses  
 Ways & Means Committee | February 16, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

**Background: House Bill 486** would create a tax credit for parents for the daily bus transportation of their student to and from school for a maximum of \$1500 tax credit per a student. Eligible schools include public schools and nonpublic schools that participate in the nonpublic school textbook and technology program.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council supports excellence in education. Area Jewish Day schools educate more than 8,000 students. For much of the Jewish community, a Jewish Day School education is not a choice, it is a necessity. Many parents send their children to nonpublic schools to give them an opportunity for advancement and a school setting where they can receive the opportunities they need to succeed. Unfortunately, tuitions are a crushing burden for many of these families. Many of the Jewish schools in our community serve a population that is 20%- 40% FARMS. HB486 would give financial relief to parents by giving them a tax credit for the bus transportation costs associated with getting their children to and from school.

Further, The Baltimore Jewish Council and The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are committed to repairing our world. We represent The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. If enacted, HB486 would mean fewer cars on the road, and less idling in front of school and wasted gas, all of which would have a positive impact on the environment.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB486.

***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.***