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 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

**House Bill 748 - State Government – Commission on Hate Crime
 Response and Prevention – Code of Conduct**

Judiciary Committee

February 20, 2024

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 748, (HB748) would require the Attorney General to adopt a publicly available code of conduct for members of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention (Commission). It would also require a policy for investigating violations of the code and give the Attorney General the authority to suspend or remove members. Lastly, it would allow members of the general public to report on alleged violations. The 2023 bill which created the Commission listed 19 specific organizations to have representation on the Commission however, it was silent on the removal or suspension of members.

Written Comments: Written Testimony: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore. The BJC has been part of the Commission in all its previous forms since its creation in 2019 as a work group, to task force, to a legislatively created commission in 2023. We have been proud to serve on the Commission and are eager to continue to develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate bias incident in Maryland.

While the Commission is currently in the drafting process of member guidelines, these guidelines do not have a policy for investigating, suspending, or removing members. All members of the Commission should be working to lower the rate of hate crimes in our state and develop mechanisms to help victims. If members are acting in either their personal or professional lives antithetical to this mission, they should be removed.

For these reasons, we as for a favorable report on HB748.

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.

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