



OFFICERS

ROBIN WEIMAN
President

RICHARD GRATZ

SARAH GROSSMAN

AMALIA HONICK

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN

MELANIE SHAPIRO

ELIZABETH GREEN
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
- Bnai Brith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- Bnai Israel Congregation
- Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Cheva A Havas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beir 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 Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emunah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 212 – Department of Aging – Aging Services –
Program Repeal and Consolidation

Finance Committee

January 22, 2025

Support

Background: Senate Bill 212 would consolidate three state funded grant programs into one in the Department of Aging (MDOA) and revise eligibility criteria. These programs are Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy and Congregant Housing Services, renaming the new Program Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR). By combining these three programs and revising the language, more senior will be able to be served and there will be a reduced administrative burden for the MDOA and service providers.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies including Jewish Community Services, CHANA, and Comprehensive Housing Inc. (CHAI). All three of these agencies work with and receive funding from the MDOA to better the lives of older adults. By consolidating these MDOA programs into one new unit, better private-public partnership is possible. Some of the programs, like the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program are highly underutilized and freeing up that funding would allow nonprofits, like those of the Associated, to apply for funding for grants to fully utilize state funding. This consolidation could also allow for a major expansion of programs already in place by nonprofits with the use of both public and private dollars to help more older adults in need.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB212.

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.