



**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 505**

**PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT SCHOOL TRANSFERS - ACADEMIC RECORDS DOCUMENTATION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**OPPOSE**

Agudath Israel of Maryland speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland, and on behalf of the 10,000+ students attending 30 Jewish day schools in our great state.

House Bill 505 would require schools to accept a variety of items in lieu of an official transcript in such cases where the official transcript is being withheld by the school where the student was previously enrolled.

Tuition is a primary way through which a school maintains its ability to operate. As such, it is important that the schools retain mechanisms through which proper tuition collection can be enforced. On occasion, the ability to withhold a transcript until the parent meets their obligation is a necessary means of ensuring the school receives the funds it needs to pay salaries and properly function. While the vast majority of parents work with our schools to pay for their children's education, there are unfortunately a small number of parents who choose to leave their tuition unpaid and instead switch to a different school to avoid payment. In such cases, the ability of the school to withhold the student's transcript allows the school to obtain a peaceful settlement without needing to enter into lengthy and costly legal proceedings.

We respectfully suggest that schools be allowed to retain a way of ensuring that the freely entered contractual obligation of tuition is met. We therefore respectfully ask you to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 505. Thank you.