



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1056 –*Nonpublic Schools – Adequate Health Services – Eligibility for Reimbursement*
Appropriations Committee
March 3, 2021**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

House Bill 1056 authorizes nonpublic school that provide adequate health services to certain students through a designated school health services professional to be eligible for reimbursement from the County government for up to 50% of the total costs of those services. HB 1056 establishes that any nonpublic schools seeking reimbursement must meet specific qualifications in compliance with the Civil Rights Act including non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Given the current pandemic, the JCRC supports the grave need for medical personnel at public and nonpublic schools. The JCRC has always had a strong commitment to public education and continues to support education-related policies and funding that help our public schools throughout the State. Additionally, in the last several years we have also seen our Jewish day school population thrive and contribute to the strength of our community. Therefore, the JCRC supports HB 1056 which helps pay for the health care needs of all students. Under current law, Counties are required to provide adequate health services, such as school nurses, in all public K-12 schools. Many nonpublic schools lack the resources to retain a qualified health professional, which is critical for allowing schools to remain open in a safe manner during the pandemic. Given these reasons, we ask the committee to support HB 1056.

