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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 323 – Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program

Budget & Taxation Committee - January 14, 2021

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SUPPORT

Background: Senate Bill 323 (SB323) would establish the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program with a mandated \$3 million-dollar yearly appropriation in the Governor's budget. It would be administered through the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). Eligible recipients must have operating budgets of less than \$3 million dollars, have a 25% waivable match, and participate in MSAC's Grants for Organizations Program or Community Arts Development Program.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies and programs, including the Gordon Center for Performing Arts. This Gordon is a 550-seat theater opened in 1995 and serves more than 30,000 people per year. If passed, the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program could help the Gordon with much needed capital improvements. For this reason, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on SB323.

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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