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Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 338 – “Commercial Driver’s Licenses – Recognition, Prevention, and Reporting of Human Trafficking”*
Economic Matters Committee
January 19, 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.

The JCRC has a long history of strongly supporting efforts to address human trafficking in Maryland and we support efforts to not only provide assistance for victims of human trafficking but to criminalize all aspects of trafficking and appropriately punish perpetrators. We believe the Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to combat modern day slavery in the U.S. and around the world.

House Bill 338 requires innkeepers, hotels and motels to maintain a computerized recordkeeping system of all guest transactions and receipts. It also requires all employees of these establishments to take an annual training program focusing on identification and reporting of human trafficking situations. This legislation could help cut down and even break the cycle of human trafficking if innkeepers, hotel and motels improved their recordkeeping and were taught to look for the right signs and reporting measures. For these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on HB 338.