



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 596 –
Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Hours of Operation
Education, Health, and Environmental Committee
February 18, 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.

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. The JCRC recognizes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as one of the most important and most effective pieces of civil rights legislation in our Nation's history. The agency has a long tradition of expanding voter access and combatting voter suppression.

Given these principles, the JCRC strongly supports SB 596 to ensure that early voting centers will be open from 8am to 8pm every year and not just during presidential elections. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support SB 596.