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Shomrei Emunah Congregation  
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society  
Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Temple Isaiah  
Zionist Organization of America  
Baltimore District



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### Senate Bill 890 Early Childhood Education-Child Care Providers Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

### Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee February 25, 2021 SUPPORT

**Background:** Senate Bill 890 (SB890) would establish a \$25 million dollar grant program starting in FY23 for Early Childhood Centers (ECC) and other childcare providers who have financially struggled or closed due to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Grants could be used for payroll, rent or mortgage and other similar expenses outlined in the bill. Entities would have to show a specified financial loss in order to be eligible. The state would also prioritize grant recipients from high poverty zip-codes and zip-codes where a significant number of licensed centers have closed.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents that Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Baltimore (JCC's). The JCC's have two early childhood centers, one of which has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic. The economic impact has been great for not only our JCC's but for several other ECC's in the Jewish community, including centers attached to our synagogues. To give a snapshot of the impact, the Owings Mills JCC in FY20 (June 19-July 20) had a revenue, not profit, of \$1.9 million, whereas the projected revenue for FY21 is \$1.4 million (with the help of the Federal PPP) and the Park Heights JCC, which remains closed, had an FY20 revenue of about \$1 million and will have \$0 for FY21. On top of that, the Owings Mills JCC has increased costs including \$25,000 for PPE, additional teacher costs, employer paid medical for furloughed staff and unemployment costs related to the staff that were furloughed and not hired back. Without assistance, many childcare centers are not going to be able to make it to the end of the pandemic, in fact 16% of childcare centers in our state have already closed. When Covid-19 is eventually under control, and parents and guardians are expected to physically go back to the office, we are going to need childcare centers. This is particularly true for women and single parents who will be forced out of the workforce if there is no readily available childcare. Providing financial support to childcare providers should be an instrumental part of our state's Covid relief package.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB980.

*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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