



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 109 – “Public Safety –
Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards - Adoption”*
Environment and Transportation Committee
January 26, 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.

According to a 2015 Maryland Department of Health report, drowning was the 2nd leading cause of death for children 0-4 and the third leading cause of death for children aged 5-14. While most Jurisdictions in Maryland have some form of existing pool and spa regulations, most lack a comprehensive code or laws that address design, construction, and safety of pools and spas leaving a patchwork of regulations across Maryland.

As a remedy to this issue, the JCRC supports HB 109 which will adopt the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) which is the only code that is coordinated and correlated with the other building codes adopted in Maryland. The ISPSC is the first national code for swimming pools and spas ever created and the only code to address all aspects of public and residential pool and spa design and construction addressing quality, safety, and energy and conservation. HB 109 aims to set consistent, statewide standards with regard to pools and spas. This action should help increase and ensure greater safety. For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on HB 109.