

## OFFICERS

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH  
President

ELIZABETH GREEN  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

THE HON. CHAYA FRIEDMAN

BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

MELANIE SHAPIRO

ROBIN WEIMAN

YEHUDA NEUBERGER  
Past President

HOWARD LIBIT  
Executive Director

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation  
American Jewish Committee  
Americans for Peace Now  
Baltimore Chapter  
American Israel Public Affairs Committee  
American Red Magen David for Israel  
American Zionist Movement  
Amit Women  
Association of Reform Zionists of America  
Baltimore Board of Rabbis  
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance  
Baltimore Men's ORT  
Baltimore Zionist District  
Beth Am Congregation  
Beth El Congregation  
Beth Israel Congregation  
Beth Shalom Congregation of  
Howard County  
Beth Tfiloh Congregation  
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region  
B'nai Israel Congregation  
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation  
Bolton Street Synagogue  
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.  
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation  
Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
Congregation Beit Tikvah  
Congregation Beth Shalom of  
Carroll County  
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel  
Federation of Jewish Women's  
Organizations of Maryland  
Hadassah  
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation  
J Street  
Jewish Federation of Howard County  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish War Veterans  
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary  
Jewish Women International  
Jews For Judaism  
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah  
Hebrew Congregation  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Ner Tamid Congregation  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Religious Zionists of America  
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation  
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

### House Bill 123 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021

### Health and Government Operations Committee

January 27, 2021

## SUPPORT

**Background:** If enacted, House Bill 123 (HB123) would help countless low income, disabled, and older Marylanders by expanding access to telehealth services. Currently, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several state restrictions on telehealth have been lifted. This bill would make those changes permanent, including expanding access to audio-only telehealth for Medicaid and commercial insurance plans, prohibiting Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the client, and requiring private insurance plans to reimburse providers for telehealth services at the same rate as in office care.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies and programs, including Jewish Community Services (JCS). JCS provides critical social services, including mental and behavioral health therapy, older adult care, and disabilities support. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic telehealth executive orders, JCS has continued to provide services to its clients. Specifically, the audio-only telehealth allowance has enabled the neediest clients, including those with disabilities, older adults and low-income individuals without stable internet access to receive their much-needed services. HB123 would allow these clients to continue to receive telehealth services after the pandemic is over. JCS has learned how invaluable telehealth services are to their clients, allowing clients to not have to rely on family, friends, Mobility or other public transit options to get them to their appointments. Telehealth services save time, money and stress and make critical care more accessible for many clients.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB123.

***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.***

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL  
5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

