



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 130 –  
*Commission on LGBTQ Affairs- Established*  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
January 14, 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 firmly believes in the value of acting with common decency and honor that is based on mutual acceptance and respect. The agency also has a long tradition of advocating for policies that oppose discrimination including on the basis of race, religion, creed, marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Given these principles, the JCRC strongly supports HB 130 which will establish in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, a Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. The importance of this Commission can not be underestimated in that it will assess the challenges facing LGBTQ communities and collect data about the implementation of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and about complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support HB 130.