



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 327 –
Civil Actions – Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults
(Maryland SAFE Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 2, 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 has a long history of serving and supporting abused and neglected older adults from all aspects of financial exploitation. Senate bill 327 is committed to strengthening the civil protections and remedies of vulnerable adults. The bill establishes a cause of action for certain financial exploitation of vulnerable adults; authorizing a vulnerable adult or certain individuals to bring an action under this Act under certain circumstances. SB 327 also provides that an action authorized under this Act is in addition to and cumulative with certain other claims, causes of action, and remedies and shall survive the death of the vulnerable adult.

While we need to better understand the issue of cognitive capacity, we know this bill will have a positive impact on securing elder justice. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 327.