

OFFICERS

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH

President

ELIZABETH GREEN

1st 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 1227 – Public Safety – Taskforce on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism

Judiciary Committee

March 9, 2021

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 1227 (HB1227) would establish the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism. The taskforce would study ways the state can prevent domestic terrorism, hate, and other forms of extremism. After studying this issue, the taskforce would then make policy recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Written Comments: Earlier this month FBI Director Chris Wray testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that domestic terrorism “has been metastasizing around the country for a long time now, and it’s not going away anytime soon.” Domestic terror is taking a new form, it is rapidly decentralizing and now organizing through new digital platforms capable of reaching, and radicalizing people like never before. This new and constantly changing landscape, combined with the swelling number of domestic terror organizations, makes this threat even more difficult for law enforcement to track. Now more than ever, we need to further understand what this growing threat means for Maryland, so that we can get ahead of it.

Whether it is a plot to kidnap and harm elected officials, overthrow the government or mass shootings targeting places of worship, domestic terrorism affects all of us regardless of background. We need to come together and address this issue as a state. HB1227 will help us do that by forming a diverse taskforce to study domestic terrorism and hate. By taking a thorough look at the issue, we can ensure that the true perpetrators of this type of extremism are held responsible.

The Jewish community is among the communities most targeted by domestic terrorists. Our community is under constant threat, from the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue, to Poway, Jersey City and Monsey. It is important for our community, and for our neighbors in other communities who are also targeted by extremism, that our state be doing everything possible to prevent domestic terrorism and combat hate.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB1227.

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

 **The Associated**
Jewish Federation of Baltimore