



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 245 -
*Election Judges – Training and Signs –
Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance*
House Ways and Means Committee
January 19, 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.

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. The JCRC recognizes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as one of the most important and most effective pieces of civil rights legislation in our Nation's history. The agency has a long tradition of expanding voter access and combatting voter suppression.

Given these principles, the JCRC strongly supports HB 245 which requires election judges to be trained on the different methods that can be used to accommodate elderly and disabled voters at polling sites. The bill also requires that signs be posted at polling locations stating that individualized accommodations may be made for those in need of assistance. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support HB 245.