



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 247 -  
*Election Law - Voting Order Priority -  
Individuals Who Need Extra 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 247 which requires chief election judges to give voting priority to certain individuals who need extra assistance at polling places or early voting centers. This bill also requires the State Board of Election to adopt certain regulations to assist these individuals with mobility issues or accompanied by children with a disability. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support HB 247.