



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 706 –  
*Nonpublic Educational Programs – Children with Disabilities –  
Costs of Teacher Salaries*  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
March 2, 2022**

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 tradition of advocating on behalf of the disability community. The agency strongly advocates for policies that oppose discrimination in all its forms as to race, color, religion or creed, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, marital status, physical or mental illnesses or chronic conditions, physical, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. All human beings are equal before God and should be equally treated under the law.

Given the agency's commitment to prioritizing the needs and rights of people with disabilities, the JCRC supports Senate Bill 706. The Bill requires the State and certain counties to pay a teacher's salary at nonpublic educational programs for children with disabilities that is equivalent to the local school salaries. Furthermore, the difference needed to raise salaries to those commensurate levels will be fulfilled by the State and the County and will not be taken from funding from other programs.

The JCRC remains committed to advancing and supporting policy measures to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. Our teachers, particularly those serving children with disabilities, must be fairly and equally compensated for their work. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support SB 706.

