

## OFFICERS

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH

President

ELIZABETH GREEN

1<sup>st</sup> 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 Emenah

Hebrew Congregation

National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

Rabbinical Council of America

Religious Zionists of America

Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emenah 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 933- Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

### Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 2022 SUPPORT

**Background:** House Bill 933, (HB933) would alter the eligibility requirements of the the Child Care Scholarship Program. Under HB933, an eligible child must reside with a parent who is engaged in a qualifying activity or be a vulnerable child, reside in the state and reside with a parent whose gross income does to exceed 85% of the State's median income. In addition, other factors, including the annual income of the child's family and the size of the family are taken into account. An eligible child remains eligible for 12 months, even if there is a temporary change in the status of the parents, or a change of residency within the state, or an increase of household income, as long as it does not exceed 150% of the maximum allowable federal poverty level, or the child turns 13, or 19 if the child has special needs.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents that Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all its agencies, including Jewish Community Services (JCS). JCS provides financial support services to people in need, including linking them with Federal, State and Local benefits and programs. Many parents must make the hard choice between entering the workforce and affording child care. This disproportionately affects minorities, women and single parents.

Maryland has one of the highest costs (ranked number 7) of child care in the country, averaging over \$15,000 a year for infant care.<sup>1</sup> This is 67% of a minimum wage workers annual salary. The Child Care Scholarship Program is a lifesaver for low-income working parents, however, the program, as currently administered is burdensome for those trying to get back into the workforce or those with a temporary change in status. The reforms in HB933 would help more people be eligible for the Scholarship and remove the current barriers.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB933.

***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.***

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MD>

