

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 Eemunah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Eemunah 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 995- Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations

Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 2022 SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 995, (HB995) would create presumptive eligibility for the subsidy under the the Child Care Scholarship Program. An individual would be required to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements of the subsidy and submit an electronic form to the department. The individual would automatically receive the subsidy after they submit the form. They would have 15 days to fill out the full application, and would continue to receive the subsidy until the department makes an eligibility determination. Further, HB995 would require that no copay be paid by subsidy recipients who participate in certain voucher and assistance programs.

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.¹ 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 makes it almost impossible for those trying to get back into the workforce because it requires proof of employment or job training before someone is eligible. This means that someone would need to find child care and afford that child care before starting employment. The reforms in HB995 would help more people be eligible for the subsidy and remove the current barriers.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB995.

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.

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

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



