



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 952 – Access to Abortion Care Access
and Health Insurance Act***
Health and Government Operations Committee
February 22, 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, synagogues, and social services agencies 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 throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders. The JCRC is focused on promoting social justice and intergroup relations and combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

In our ongoing effort to strengthen Maryland’s reproductive freedom laws, the JCRC supports House Bill 952 – Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act. Our agency is committed to religious liberty and upholding one’s constitutional right to reproductive freedom, that is, abortion and contraception. While the State of Maryland codified *Roe v. Wade* in 1992, not everyone in the state has access to safe and affordable abortion care. We need to truly ensure reproductive freedom for all Marylanders including accessibility, safety, and affordability.

House Bill 952 establishes certain requirements regarding abortion care services, including provision and coverage requirements on the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations. HB 952 requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to adopt regulations to provide subsidies to cover the cost of insurance premiums for young adults; in so doing, it ensures insurance coverage regardless of payor --private and Medicaid. Although the State of Maryland already has codified reproductive freedom laws, we need to guarantee that this religious freedom is ensured for all. For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on HB 952.