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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 186 - Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)
Appropriations Committee

January 31, 2023

SUPPORT

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 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
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Background: House Bill 186 (HB186) would supplement federal funding for victim services programs when the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding fluctuates so that programs would not suffer major budget shortfalls. In each fiscal year the Governor would be required to include an appropriation that, together with the Federal VOCA funding, amounts to \$60 million for victim services programs. This supplemental funding would be housed in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and its agencies. Through the agency CHANA, the Jewish response to abuse, trauma and neglect, people of all ages can receive crisis intervention, legal services and counseling on sexual, domestic, mental and financial abuse. Like many other crisis response organizations, CHANA relies in-part on federal VOCA dollars to fund its services. VOCA funding has recently drastically decreased, and while a federal fix was signed into law, it will take several years for the federal dollars to catch up. Further, the federal FY23 funding bill shows another cut to VOCA funding, around \$30 million less than funding five years ago.

HB186 provides much needed financial stability for victim service organizations to continue to serve their clients. **For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB186.**

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 Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

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