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Written Testimony

**HB1226: Economic Development - Nonprofit Sustainability Fund - Establishment
 House Appropriations Committee – March 9, 2023**

Support

Background: House Bill 1226 would establish the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund in the Department of Commerce to provide general operating support to nonprofit organizations in the State; establish the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund Evaluation Committee to evaluate applications from certain nonprofit organizations in the State for grants from the Fund; and establish criteria for eligibility for a certain grant from the Fund.

Written Comments: Nonprofit organizations are the backbone of our communities. These organizations provide essential services to Maryland residents. A 2020 Maryland Nonprofits survey of its clients found that 45% had less than 60 days cash reserve, and a third had less than 30 days. It is clear that these integral nonprofits need our support in order to operate.

By establishing the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund and its Evaluation Committee, Maryland will be taking a step toward supporting its nonprofit community. With proper guidelines and vetting, organizations will be able to access needed grant funding from the State to further their missions. This bill has been carefully crafted to ensure that grants will go to small/medium-sized nonprofits in need rather than large institutions.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB1226.

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.