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BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 861- Consumer Protection - Scanning or Swiping Identification Cards and Driver's Licenses – Prohibition

Finance Committee -March 15, 2023

Oppose

Background: Senate Bill 861 (SB861) would prohibit individuals and business from using ID scanning devices to scan or swipe ones identification card or driver's license to obtain and store personal information. This bill has very few exemptions and does not address the security reasons many organizations need to use them, including our public schools and institutions at risk of hate crimes.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. We oppose SB861 because it would prohibit one of the most common security mechanisms that we, our schools, synagogues, and institutions use every day to keep our community safe. One of the most popular systems used by our community and virtually all of Maryland's public schools is Raptor. Raptor's visitor management system swipes IDs to look for people on the sex offender registry, criminal history background, and other safety measuring including saving custodial rights information to their system to make sure children are handed over to their rightful guardian.[1] SB861 would not allow Raptor and similar systems to be used for this needed safety mechanism. Further these systems are considered so important that the Federal Homeland Security Grant Program which provides grantees with the resources required to protect against, mitigate and respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats, funds systems such as LenelS2 (used by our JCC's) and Raptor. The State of Maryland also provides funds for these systems under several grants, including the Maryland Safe School's Grant Fund.[2] We should not be banning mechanisms that our Federal Government and State both see as important in keeping communities safe.

For these reasons and more, we ask the committee for an unfavorable report of SB 861.

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://raptortech.com/protect-your-school/raptor-visitor-management-system/
[2] https://raptortech.com/school-safety-grants-and-federal-funding/#maryland

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