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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill 1066- Hate Crimes - Commission on Hate Crime
 Response and Prevention - Establishment**

Judiciary Committee

March 9, 2023

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 Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emunah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

Background: House Bill 1066 (HB1066) would codify the Attorney General's Hate Crimes Task Force, making it a formal, permanent Commission with dedicated staff. Members of the commission would include the JCRC of Greater Washington, the Baltimore Jewish Council, NAMI, Maryland State Police, the NAACP, the Immigration Outreach Service Center, and other key stakeholders that have already been established as members of the Task Force. The purpose of the commission would be to develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate crime activities and evaluate state laws and polices relating to hate. Annual findings would be reported to the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council, which represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and its agencies, respectfully urges the committee to formalize the AG's Hate Crimes Task Force. The task force was created to directly address the recent climate of fear and intimidation caused by rising hate/bias incidents. According to Maryland State Police's 2021 Hate Bias Report, anti-Jewish hate crime incidents account for more than 1 in 10 hate crime incidents, the second highest bias after anti-Black hate crimes. This is an issue that directly affects our community and other minority groups throughout Maryland and across the country. By formalizing the Attorney General's Hate Crimes Task Force as a Commission, we believe that all religious and minority communities that have fallen victim to hate crimes will be better protected.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB1066.

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.