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**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  
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 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  
 Zionst Organization of America  
 Baltimore District

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**Senate Bill 1 - Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting  
 Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)**

**Judicial Proceeding Committee**

**February 7, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

**Background:** Senate Bill 1, (SB1), would, with a few specific exceptions, prohibit someone from carrying, wearing or transporting a gun on someone else's property without the express permission of that person. It also prohibits a person from knowingly carrying, wearing or transporting a gun within 100 feet of a place of public accommodation.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council is dedicated to helping to ensure safety at Baltimore area synagogues, Jewish facilities, and places of worship for all faiths. Since 9/11, our community has dedicated extraordinary resources – time, money and training – to significantly enhance security. Grants from the federal and state governments have helped make substantial physical improvements, from new fences and cameras to tougher window coverings and more secure points of entry and provided for on-sight security personnel. We have seen synagogues and other institutions invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in hiring personnel – both armed and unarmed – to ensure there is professional protection as needed. The BJC's director of security has coordinated with local, state and federal law enforcement to provide multiple trainings on such topics as how to respond to active shooter situations or bomb threats, and he has worked with our partners to develop a state-of-the-art alert system using phone, text and email.

***The BJC does not support weakening amendments that would allow for exemptions to religious institutions.*** We believe that professional, well-trained protection is far preferable to allowing members of congregations, even if they have concealed carry permits, to bring firearms to places of worship. We need fewer firearms in our churches, synagogues, and mosques, not more.

***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.***

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