



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 808* –
Reproductive Health Protection Act
Judiciary Committee
March 8, 2023**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, synagogues, and social services agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders. The JCRC is focused on promoting social justice and intergroup relations and combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

The JCRC is committed to religious liberty and reproductive choice. In our ongoing effort to strengthen Maryland's reproductive freedom laws, the JCRC supports House Bill 808 — Reproductive Health Protection Act. HB 808 prohibits a judge from requiring a person to testify about a legal abortion in a state banning abortion. The Bill also provides protections for women from out of state who seek abortions in Maryland and the medical professionals and clinics that provide them.

In light of the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision which overturned a woman's constitutionally protected right to an abortion, the JCRC believes it is critical to support HB 808. Although the Dobbs decision does not impact Maryland law, it does add an urgency to ensuring a women's fundamental right to reproductive freedom. The State of Maryland already has codified reproductive freedom laws; nonetheless, we need to guarantee that this religious freedom is ensured for all. For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on HB 808.