



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 448 –
Nonpublic Education – Special Education Placements – Renaming and
Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)
House Ways and Means Committee
February 15, 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 social service agencies, synagogues, and Jewish schools in the region. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and equity. We advocate on issues that are critical to the Jewish community and all Marylanders, including the most vulnerable among us.

The JCRC has a long tradition of supporting measures on behalf of the disability community. The agency strongly advocates for policies that oppose discrimination in all its forms as to race, color, religion or creed, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, marital status, physical or mental illnesses or chronic conditions, physical, intellectual, and cognitive disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. All human beings are equal before God and should be equally treated under the law.

Given our commitment to prioritizing the needs and rights of people with disabilities, the JCRC supports House Bill 448—Nonpublic Education—Special Education Placements—Renaming and Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act). The Bill renames the nonpublic educational program to be the special education placement program. It also requires the State and certain counties to pay a teacher’s salary and bonus at nonpublic educational programs for children with disabilities that is equivalent to the pay of that of public local school teachers.

The JCRC remains committed to advancing and supporting policy measures to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. Our teachers, particularly those serving children with disabilities, must be fairly and equally compensated for their work. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support HB 448.

