

**OFFICERS**

ELIZABETH GREEN  
 President  
 ROBIN WEIMAN  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 AMALIA HONICK  
 BENJAMIN ROSENBERG  
 RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ  
 RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN  
 MELANIE SHAPIRO  
 RABBI ANDREW BUSCH  
 Past President  
 HOWARD LIBIT  
 Executive Director

**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

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**House Bill 666 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -  
 State Supplement**

**Appropriations Committee**

**February 6, 2024  
 Support**

**Background:** House Bill 666 (HB666) repeals the minimum age of a household member for state supplemental SNAP eligibility. It also increases the state supplement from \$40 to \$95 a month.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore and its agencies, including Jewish Community Services, which helps low-income individuals in need. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB666. Currently the state SNAP minimum benefit is \$40 a month for households with a member at least 62 years old. This is just over a \$1 a day. This amount is grossly inadequate for individuals and families to access the vital nutrition needed to live a healthy life. HB666 would reduce food insecurity and combat hunger among all low-income individuals, not just those with household members at least 62 years old. By removing the age barrier households with young families would be able to benefit more from SNAP. Further, SNAP helps generate local economic activity since every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.85 for the local economy.

**For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB666.**

***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 Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.***