

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President
 ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st 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 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
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
House Bill 809 - Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, or Workgroups – Removal or Suspension Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee – March 21, 2024 Support

Background: In partnership with the Attorney General's Office, HB809 would give authority to the individual or entity that has appointed someone to serve on a statutorily created board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup to suspend or remove the member for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duties, or any other cause deemed reasonable.

Written Comments: This legislative effort comes as a direct result of Attorney General Brown's temporary suspension of CAIR Maryland's appointee on AG's Hate Crimes Commission - he reinstated this member a week later out of concern that he did not have proper authority to suspend or remove a commissioner. The Baltimore Jewish Council is grateful for Attorney General Brown's collaboration on crafting this bill.

It's important for there to be a mechanism for suspending or removing a member of a statutorily created board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup if they no longer represent the best interest of the group. For example, if someone who is appointed to the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Commission is accused of committing sexual assault, they need to be able to be removed, or at least suspended until the accusation is resolved. Another example could be the need to suspend a physician from the State Board of Physicians due to pending litigation and until the case has ended.

By creating an equal mechanism across the board for these appointed positions, the State of Maryland can ensure that the most qualified individuals are represented without controversy.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB809.

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.