

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 Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Eemunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
House Bill 699 - Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Notice and Removal of
Item or Symbol (Hate Crimes Graffiti Removal Act)
Environment and Transportation Committee – February 20, 2024
Support

Background: House Bill 699 would require law enforcement agencies to promptly notify owners of personal or real property regarding certain items or symbols being placed or inscribed on the property. These property owners would be required to remove the items or symbols **within 24 hours** after notification.

Written Comments: As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, the Baltimore Jewish Council takes on the task of receiving all reports of hate bias incidents in the Greater Baltimore Region. From [vandalizing signs outside of synagogues](#), to [spray-painting swastikas on headstones](#) in cemeteries, these incidents are happening more often than you would think.

News coverage of an [incident at Pikesville Middle School](#) in December where a swastika was found in the boys bathroom with the words “kill the Jews” next to it, quoted an individual who shared that “The boy who found it said he was scared to go back to school the next day....Parents are scared, too.” There is a serious mental toll that comes along with discovering these symbols of hate, and something needs to be done to properly address these crimes.

All you have to do is quickly search “[incidents of hate graffiti Maryland](#)” on Google and suddenly you’re inundated with reports of swastikas, racial slurs, and more. By requiring a property owner to remove these hate items or symbols, including things like nooses and swastikas, within 24 hours or notification from law enforcement, you are sparing so many individuals from the suffering that comes along with seeing these hateful symbols in their community.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB699.

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.