



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *Senate Bill 705 –
Health Insurance – Qualified Resident Enrollment Program
(Access to Care Act)***
Senate Finance Committee
February 21, 2024

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 and synagogues 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 tirelessly to advocate for our social service agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish and broader community.

The JCRC has a long tradition of endorsing policy measures that provide support to immigrant communities. Jewish law and tradition have embraced the stranger and demanded that we help those in need. Senate Bill 705 – Health Insurance – Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act) – is critical in providing accessible health care for all Marylanders, regardless of citizenship or employment status. SB 705 will require the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to establish and implement the Qualified Resident Enrollment Program to facilitate the enrollment of qualified residents in qualified plans.

Not only do we have a moral imperative to treat immigrant communities with compassion and care, but the JCRC also recognizes that access to health benefits, regardless of immigration status, will create a community that is healthier and safer for all Marylanders. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 705.