



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Testimony: General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Muslim American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage Months
Organization: Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD
Submitting: Laura Salganik, Chair
Position: FAVORABLE
Hearing Date: April 3, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of HB899, which requires the Governor to annually proclaim certain months as Muslim-American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage months.

Many Marylanders know few if any Jews or Muslims, who together constitute about 10 percent of the population. In addition, they know little about the long history of both Jews and Muslims in the United States and the contributions that Jews and Muslims have made to our State in the arts, business, academic, and public service fields.

As Jews, we know what it feels like to be a small minority in a group of people who know very little about who we are; at the same time they assume a lot of things about us that we are not. Activities around Heritage months for both Jews and Muslims can make a real contribution to alleviating this feeling for us and our Muslim fellow Marylanders.

We urge the committee to give a favorable report to this important legislation.