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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill 869 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025
Health and Government Operations Committee**

February 13, 2025

SUPPORT

Background: If enacted, House Bill 869 (HB869) would remove the sunset on audio only telehealth services.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies and programs, including Jewish Community Services (JCS). JCS provides critical social services, including mental and behavioral health therapy, older adult care, and disabilities support. Audio only telehealth has enabled the neediest clients, including those with disabilities, older adults and low-income individuals without stable internet access, to receive their much-needed services. HB869 would allow these clients to continue to receive audio only telehealth services after June 2025. JCS has learned over the years how invaluable audio only telehealth services are to the clients they service, making sure clients can receive the healthcare they need.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB869.

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.