



OFFICERS

ROBIN WEIMAN
President

RICHARD GRATZ

SARAH GROSSMAN

AMALIA HONICK

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN

MELANIE SHAPIRO

ELIZABETH GREEN
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
- Bnai Brith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- Bnai Israel Congregation
- Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevrá A Havas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beir 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 Emunah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 466 Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member – Prohibition

Jointly Assigned: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy & Environment Committees

February 5, 2025

Support as Amended by the Sponsor

Background: If enacted, Senate Bill 466 with sponsor amendments, would make changes to the criminal code article § 8-801 which criminalizes financial crimes committed against vulnerable adults. Those convicted of a felony under this statute are subject to mandatory exclusion from working for any Federal or State funded healthcare system for a period of five years. Currently § 8-801 requires the State to prove that the property was obtained from the victim by “deception, intimidation, or undue influence.” However, deception is very narrowly defined in Maryland’s criminal code, requiring a broken trust where the victim is misled. Therefore, a caregiver who steals money or a credit card from a vulnerable adult in their care, without their knowledge, is not conduct covered by the financial exploitation statute. This bill aims to revise § 8-801 to make financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult an aggravated offense due to a victim’s vulnerability and the caregiver’s status, addressing this gap in the law.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents the interests of CHANA, an agency of the Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore. CHANA is a domestic violence, sexual abuse, and elder abuse agency that serves Baltimore County and City. CHANA provides safety planning, supportive counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, case management and legal advocacy. CHANA has served far too many older adult abuse victims whose caregivers have used them for financial gain. This bill would give victims the ability to seek financial justice and help others from falling victim to the same exploiters.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB466 as amended by the sponsor.

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.



Baltimore Jewish Council

An agency of The Associated

OFFICERS

ROBIN WEIMAN
President

RICHARD GRATZ
SARAH GROSSMAN
AMALIA HONICK

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
MELANIE SHAPIRO

ELIZABETH GREEN
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
Bnai Brith, Chesapeake Bay Region
Bnai Israel Congregation
Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beir 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 Emunah Congregation
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District