

**OFFICERS**

ELIZABETH GREEN  
 President  
 ROBIN WEIMAN  
 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Emunah Congregation  
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
 Temple Beth Shalom  
 Temple Isaiah  
 Zionist Organization of America  
 Baltimore District

**Written Testimony**

**House Bill 71 - Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program - Established  
 Ways and Means Committee – January 23, 2025  
 Support**

**Background: House Bill 71** would establish the Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program in the Maryland State Department of Education with the purpose of assisting local school systems with the training of teachers to teach Holocaust curriculum in public schools. This grant program could only be used for teacher training classes and/or teaching materials. The annual appropriation from the Governor's budget would \$500,000, and school systems could apply for up to \$50,000 in funding.

**Written Comments:** It's no secret that antisemitism continues to rise across our state and our country at an alarming rate. A look at the most recent laundry list of reported incidents in the Baltimore region, compiled by our Director of Security, is chilling.

As a society, we know that one of the best ways to prevent the harmful spewing of hate and ignorance is through education. The Baltimore Jewish community is grateful that The State Superintendent organized the "Educate to Stop the Hate Committee" last spring, naming Baltimore Jewish Council's Executive Director, Howard Libit, as co-chair. The Committee was tasked with looking at curriculum across all grades and making recommendations for improvement in social studies frameworks including holocaust education and providing guidance to the State Board of Education for improvement. This report will be presented to the State Board on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

As Maryland moves toward a more substantive Holocaust education in its classrooms, we recognize that it is important to give our teachers the tools they need to both understand and properly teach the material to their students. Without funding for professional development and materials, this can be hard to achieve.

By establishing the Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program, Maryland's local boards of education will be able to hire the proper entities to train their teachers on Holocaust curriculum; provide needed materials to both teachers and students for effective lessons; and allow funding to go to activities directly related to Holocaust education, which could allow for field trips, guest speakers, and more.

**For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB71.**

***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.***