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- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
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- Temple Isaiah
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**SB316: Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and
Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

February 18, 2026

SUPPORT

Background: Senate Bill 316 would require the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and authorize a person alleging discrimination under certain provisions of law to file a complaint with a Title VI Coordinator of a local school system.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Baltimore.

It's impossible to turn a blind eye to the increased hateful rhetoric that is plaguing our school systems across the State. These incidents are not insular to the K-12 education system, in fact, they increase tremendously in our institutions of higher education, especially since the horrific massacre of October 7th. Between encampments and protests, it's difficult for some students to feel welcome and safe.

It is important that all our students, whether in a K-12 school or on a college campus, feel safe and comfortable enough to learn without distraction. By requiring that each school designate a Title VI Coordinator, we are ensuring that there is a resource available to students who feel they are being discriminated against, and proper avenues for incidents to be reported. By ensuring there is access to these resources, we are further protecting our students and allowing them to focus on the reason that they are at school or on campus in the first place – to receive an excellent education.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB316.

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.