



**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 722**

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS - DOCTRINE OF CHARITABLE IMMUNITY –  
ABROGATION**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

**OPPOSE**

Agudath Israel of Maryland speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland, and on behalf of the thirty-some Jewish day schools, sixty-some synagogues, and hundreds of other religious facilities and community charitable organizations within our communities.

House Bill 722 would create a dangerous precedent by retroactively stripping charitable immunity from organizations for sexual abuse claims. Applying a retroactive standard is questionable on both legal grounds and on equitable grounds. In particular, one might note that the State of Maryland is currently seeking to claim immunity for child abuse cases that occurred in the past, and the status of that claim is not addressed by this legislation. As such, this bill would create an unfair double standard, affecting only nonprofits and not abuse cases involving the State.

This bill would potentially severely harm those who rely on the services provided by nonprofits who could now be bankrupted for (horrific) incidents that occurred many decades ago. Many of these organizations could be bankrupted or might need to divert significant resources to litigation, forcing them to curtail or even suspend their services. Nonprofits have a critical role in civil society, and the reasonable protections that help them operate should be maintained, even as aggressive efforts to ensure that victims of abuse be helped should be pursued. As such, we respectfully urge you to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 722.

Thank you.