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March 7, 2025

Dear Governor Youngkin:

As the community and government relations arm for over 100 Jewish organizations in our region, we thank you for your ongoing support of our community.

With the conclusion of the General Assembly's 2025 General Session, I write now to express our support for several bills that have been sent to you for your signature. As you know, in addition to our year-round work to secure funds to support our network of Northern Virginia agencies, we also support legislation that aims to better our Commonwealth for all her citizens and residents. With that in mind, we share below the bills we urge you to sign and their connection to the Jewish community.

Countering Antisemitism:

More than a year after Hamas's October 7, 2023, massacre and kidnapping of Israelis and the global tidal wave of Jew-hatred that followed, fighting antisemitism remains our highest priority. Antisemitic incidents and rhetoric deeply impact the Jewish community's sense of safety, security and belonging and had been on the rise well before October 7. Regrettably, it has continued to skyrocket across political and ideological spectrums. We support legislation, policies, educational efforts and initiatives that fight hatred targeting Jews and the Jewish community, as well as all other forms of hatred and bigotry. We further support and encourage efforts to correct misinformation, disinformation and distortion of facts about Jews and Israel, much of which is designed to foster antisemitism and propagate or repackage age-old antisemitic tropes.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign into law:

[HB 2783](#) Placing Nazi swastika on certain property with intent to intimidate; penalty.

Maternal Health:

Jewish law calls on individuals to heal oneself and others and therefore prioritizes the life and health of a woman throughout pregnancy, including the prenatal and postpartum periods.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign into law:

[HB 2446](#) Postpartum Depression Education Act; report.

Justice for Individuals and Communities:

Jewish tradition recognizes the importance of the home; we are taught that the home is a *mikdash me'at* - a mini sanctuary.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign into law:



HB 2153 Affordable housing; comprehensive plan; development by nonprofit organizations;
Department of Housing and Community Development.

Justice (*tzedek*), repentance (*teshuvah*), and the preservation of human life (*Exodus 20:13*) are core values of the Jewish faith. The JCRC, therefore, is committed to advocating for a criminal justice system that is just, restorative, and provides equal treatment for all under the law.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign into law:

HB 1894 State correctional facilities; cell conditions; temperature monitoring; report.

HB 2158 Functional literacy program for inmates, etc.

Violence Protection:

The JCRC positions on gun safety are deeply rooted in the Jewish beliefs in the sanctity of life and the abhorrence of senseless violence.

Accordingly, we urge you to sign into law:

HB 2241 Possession or transportation of firearms, firearms ammunition, stun weapons, or explosives or carrying concealed weapons by persons convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime prohibited; penalty.

Thank you, again, for all that you do. If you have any questions about our positions on these or other bills, do not hesitate to reach out to Vicki Fishman, JCRC Director of Virginia Government and Community Relations, at vfishman@jcouncil.org or (703) 214-1687 or our lobbyist in Richmond, Missy Wesolowski at (703) 975-5411.

Sincerely,

Vicki E. Fishman

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