

THE JCRC'S 2022 VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Security for Faith-Based Institutions: The JCRC supports the continued funding and an expanded reach for security measures and programs to support nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, at risk of hate crimes.

Supports for Social Services: Our Jewish agencies provide a range of support for aging adults, individuals with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Holocaust survivors, and individuals seeking counseling and mental health services. These services are provided to all, regardless of faith, background, or ability to pay. We support expanding the social safety net to support our agencies in their work to serve all Virginians in need.

Gun Violence Protection: The JCRC supports bipartisan efforts to prevent gun violence, such as background checks on all purchases and transfers of ownership that keep guns and firearms out of the wrong hands.

Voter Access: Laws limiting voter access – regardless of intent – may disenfranchise eligible voters and disproportionately affect minorities, the elderly, voters with disabilities, and those who live in poverty. The JCRC supports legislation to expand access to the polls and opposes legislation unduly restricting ballot access and legislation to permanently bar the formerly incarcerated from the polls.

Reproductive Health: The JCRC supports legislation that ensures that Virginians have access to comprehensive health care, including reproductive health care, contraception and abortion and that Virginians do not face discrimination or government overreach into their relationships with their health care providers, such as has happened in other states across the Country.

Fighting Poverty and COVID-19 Recovery: The public health crisis and economic uncertainty brought by the pandemic exposed and exacerbated weaknesses in our ability to provide for those most in need. The JCRC supports programs that offer continuing relief for those still suffering from the impact of the pandemic and that help the most vulnerable in our community acquire tools to success by providing access to affordable housing, hunger relief and quality education.

Criminal Justice Reform: The JCRC is committed to advocating for a criminal justice system for adults and juveniles that is just, provides equitable treatment for all under the law, and ensures accountability for conduct and performance of police and prosecutors

Our Environment: The JCRC supports conservation and policies to protect our environment, including incentivizing energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources.

Immigration: The JCRC supports a generous, nondiscriminatory immigration policy that enables a path to legal status and citizenship, ensures access to social services for immigrants and their families. We support humane efforts to reduce the flow of distressed immigrants into the United States and legislation and practices that promote protection of human rights in detentions and deportations.

Disability Advocacy: The JCRC seeks to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the resources they need to live with dignity and fully participate in society and Jewish life. We are committed to creating opportunities for self-sufficiency and inclusion.

Separation of Church and State: The JCRC supports the constitutional right to individual religious expression and affirms our opposition to efforts to legislate coercive religious practice into Virginia government institutions and schools.

Virginia-Israel Advisory Board: The JCRC supports the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) in its mission to facilitate economic development opportunities between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Israel.