

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/FUNDING TO:

- Support emergency aid to Israel in the aftermath of the October 7th Hamas terrorist attack which massacred 1200 innocent people and kidnapped 240 civilians.
 - **Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024** features \$14.3 billion in critical defense spending and emergency assistance to Israel. This funding helps Israel defend herself from indiscriminate rocket attacks and prevent the conflict from escalating regionally.
- Secure the Jewish community from terrorist threats through FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). Since the October 7th massacre, attacks against our community have skyrocketed.
 - **Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)** is a critical tool to protect Jewish and other faith-based nonprofits from physical threats through target hardening and other physical security enhancements. Support President Biden \$200 million request in the Supplemental Budget, and an aggregate of at least \$500 million on an annual basis.
- Combat unprecedented spike in antisemitism on college campuses. Jewish students are increasingly worried about their safety and security at school, and many are hiding their Jewish identity.
 - **Antisemitism Awareness Act**, a bipartisan and bicameral bill, requiring the Department of Education to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism when enforcing federal anti-discrimination laws.
- Improve the implementation and enforcement of sanctions against terrorist organizations that use innocent civilians as human shields.
 - **Strengthening Tools to Counter the Use of Human Shields Act** is critical to ensuring that sanctions extend to all entities and their supporters who instigate acts of war from behind innocent civilians.
- Provide additional resources to enhance the safety net for our nation's most vulnerable citizens which includes Holocaust survivors, individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those in dire need of support.
 - **Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program (HSAP)** to support aging Holocaust survivors and their caregivers.

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- **Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Age Adjustment Act**, which would provide a pathway to greater independence for disabled individuals by allowing them to establish tax-free savings accounts for disability-related and health care expenses.

MARYLAND STATE ISSUES:

OPERATING FUNDING (*maintain current levels*)-

- The Protecting Against Hate Crimes (PAHC) program for houses of worship and faith-based nonprofits targeted for hate crimes.
- The Maryland Center for School Safety (MSCC) Hate Crimes Grant for schools and childcare centers at-risk for hate crimes.
- The Jewish Social Services Agency's (JSSA) Holocaust survivors and Coming of Age programs for vulnerable, older adults including Holocaust Survivors
- The Charles E. Smith Life Communities' ElderSafe Center to support victims of elder abuse and neglect.
- The Maryland Israel Development Center (MIDC) to promote trade between Israel and Maryland.

LEGISLATION TO-

- **Combat antisemitism and hatred in all forms** through education, law enforcement and policy initiatives.
- **Ensure reproductive freedom** for women to have access to the full spectrum of healthcare services including contraception and abortion.
- **Address climate change** and protect our environment including incentivizing energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources.
- **Expand voter access** and strengthen efforts to include those who might be disenfranchised.
- **Disability advocacy** to ensure that individuals have necessary resources to live with dignity and fully participate in society and Jewish life.
- **Support survivors of intimate partner violence and abuse.**
- **Address behavioral healthcare needs** given increased demand for these services for individuals and families in crisis.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY ISSUES:

- **Increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program** for faith-based institutions facing hate and bias crimes.
- **Fight poverty with programs** that help the most vulnerable by providing access to affordable housing, hunger relief and quality education.
- **Secure funding for social service agencies** (JSSA, Makom, JCA, CESLC, Bender JCC, JCADA, Sunflower Bakery) which provide vital non-sectarian support throughout the county. These Jewish agencies help aging adults, individuals with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Holocaust survivors, and individuals with mental health challenges, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or ability to pay.
- **Expand quality childcare** that is affordable and accessible for all.
- **Support educational programs** and funding to strengthen both our vibrant public school and independent school systems and provide a thriving environment for all students.