

January 28, 2022

Dear Northern Virginia Senators and Delegates:

As the community and government relations arm for over 100 Jewish organizations in our region, we thank you for your ongoing support of our legislative and budget priorities, as well as your efforts to ensure that Virginia remains safe and a place where all communities can grow and thrive.

With the 2022 Session underway, we write now to share our legislative priorities, the specific legislation we support, as well as the legislation that we oppose. In addition to our year-round work to secure funds to support our network of Northern Virginia agencies that provide excellent cost-effective social services to the community at-large on a non-sectarian basis, we also support legislation that aims to better our Commonwealth for all of her citizens and residents.

While we support many of the bills you have introduced, we have highlighted a few below along with several pieces of legislation that we oppose:

*Fighting Poverty and COVID-19 Relief:*

**We support:**

- **SJ 10 Study; joint subcommittee to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth; report. (Sen. Scott Surovell)**
- **SB 1 Paid family and medical leave program; Virginia Employment Commission required to establish. (Sen. Jennifer Boysko)**
- **HB 824 Low-income housing; tax credit for specialty populations, expands availability. (Del. Luke Torian)**

*Security for Faith-Based Institutions:*

**We support:**

- **Budget item 408 O:** Competitive grants to localities to combat hate crimes, including but not limited to target hardening activities, contractual security services, critical technology infrastructure, cybersecurity resilience activities, monitoring, inspection and screening systems; security-related training for employed or volunteer security staff; and terrorism awareness training for employees.
- **HJ 88 Study; Virginia State Crime Commission; hate crimes and bias-motivated acts directed toward Asians. (Del. Suhas Subramanyam)**

*Criminal Justice Reform:*

**We support:**

- **SB 108 Isolated confinement; restrictions on use (Sen. Joe Morrissey)**
- **HB 665 Correctional facilities, state; fees. (Del. Patrick Hope)**
- **HB 683 Correctional facilities; prohibited acts, use of canines by officers, etc. (Del. Kaye Kory)**

- **HB 719 Physical evidence recovery kits; victim's right to notification, storage. (Del. Eileen Filler-Corn)**
- **SB 467 Human trafficking; training for law-enforcement personnel. (Sen. Jill Vogel)**

Supports for Social Services:

**We support:**

- **Budget item 331 H:** Contract with the Jewish Social Services Agency to provide assistance to low-income seniors who have experienced trauma.
- **Budget line item 312 K:** contract with the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes to expand the Transitioning Youth program for individuals with developmental disability who are aging out and exiting the school system in Loudoun County.

Gun Violence Protection:

**We support:**

- **HB 798 Gun Violence Survivor Assistance Fund and Grant Program. (Del. Marcia Price)**

**We oppose:**

- **HB 23/ HB 188 Dangerous weapons; carrying to place of religious worship.(Del. Wendell Walker/ Del. John McGuire)**
- **HB 133 Firearms or other weapons; possession on school property (Del. Mike Cherry)**

Our Environment:

**We support:**

- **SB 565 Natural gas, biogas, and other gas sources of energy; definitions, energy conservation. (Sen. Scott Surovell)**
- **SB 707 Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund; established (Sen. David Marsden)**

Immigration:

**We support:**

- **HB 891 Noncitizens of the United States; terminology. Introduced by: Alfonso H. Lopez**
- **Budget line item 340 I:** Out of this appropriation, \$4,000,000 the first year and \$4,000,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to the Office of New Americans for a pilot program to competitively award grants to immigrant- and refugee-serving organizations. These grants shall provide intensive case management to limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals to assist them with applying for critical public services. Grants shall also be competitively awarded to refugee resettlement agencies to ensure that immigrants and refugees receive equitable services by expanding the agencies' capacity to provide legal services, case management, and assistance finding health care, housing, education, and employment. The

amounts in this paragraph shall fund the pilot, an evaluation of the pilot, and two restricted positions to oversee pilot program implementation. A report including the evaluation of the pilot shall be provided to the Governor, Director, Department of Planning and Budget, and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations committees by September 30, 2024.

Voter Access:

**We support:**

- **HJ 28 Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters and the right to vote (Del. Charniele Herring)**

**We oppose:**

- **HB 34 Absentee voting; return of absentee ballots, drop-off locations. (Del. Ronnie Campbell)**

Disability Advocacy:

**We support:**

- **HB 94 Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office; established. (Del. Chris Head)**
- **HB 1047 Students who need or use augmentative and alternative communication; instruction; eligibility. (Del. Kathy Tran)**

Women's Health:

**We support:**

- **HB 480 Health insurance; coverage for the diagnosis of and treatment for infertility. (Del. Dan Helmer)**

**We oppose:**

- **HB 937 Department of Health; restrictions on expenditure of funds related to family planning services. (Del. Dave LaRock)**
- **HB 212 Abortion; right to informed consent. (Del. Karen Greenhalgh)**

Separation of Church and State:

**We support:**

- **SJ 5 Constitutional amendment; marriage; fundamental right to marry, same-sex marriage prohibition. (Sen. Adam Ebbin)**



Ensuring non-discrimination in general also is always high on our agenda. For that reason, we also support the following bills:

**We support:**

- **HB 909 Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; prohibited discrimination, national origin.(Del. Alfonso Lopez)**
- **HB 1063 Public accommodations, employment, and housing; prohibited discrimination on the basis of religion (Del. Irene Shin)**

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](mailto:vfishman@jcouncil.org) or (703) 307-3467 or our lobbyists in Richmond, Missy Wesolowski at (703) 975-5411 and Aimee Perron Seibert at (804) 647-3140.

Sincerely,

Vicki E. Fishman  
Director Government and Community Relations

Ronald Halber  
Executive Director

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