

The Jewish Community Relations Council, of which Har Shalom is a member, is supporting a number of bills during the 2008 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Among them are:

House Bill 210/Senate Bill 242—Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Cost of Living Adjustment—requires an annual cost of living adjustment for community developmental disabilities and mental health services providers, as recommended by the Community Services Rate Commission.

House Bill 182—Domestic Violence—provides a permanent protective order if an offender is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an act of domestic abuse.

House Bill 183—Domestic Violence—authorizes a judge to order a law enforcement officer to use all reasonable and necessary force to enforce a temporary custody provision of a final protective order.

The Council supports the following bills in concept, recognizing that it does not have the technical expertise to address the details:

Senate Bill 205—EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008

Senate Bill 207—Solar and Geothermal Tax Incentive and Grant Program

Senate Bill 208—High Performance Buildings Act

Senate Bill 209—Renewable Portfolio Standards Requirements

In addition, the Council opposes HB185 and 188. Both of these bills would provide public funding for private schools. It also opposes two immigration bills, SB 84 and SB 112, which would deny public benefits and services as well as pretrial release to undocumented immigrants. Finally, the Council opposes SB 136, the voter identity card bill.

PLEASE JOIN THR JCRC IN SPEAKING OUT ABOUT THESE BILLS, FOR OR AGAINST AS NOTED, BY CONTACTING YOUR DELEGATES AND SENATORS.

For contact information, go to

<http://mlis.state.md.us/Other/Roster/Legislative.pdf>