



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 29 –**  
**Election Law – Voting – Elections by Mail, Polling Places,**  
**and Early Voting Centers**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**February 4, 2021**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. The JCRC recognizes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as one of the most important and most effective pieces of civil rights legislation in our Nation’s history. The agency has a long tradition of expanding voter access and combatting voter suppression.

Senate Bill 29 requires each local board of election to send a vote by mail ballot to each registered voter 21 days before the election. The mail-in ballots can be returned via mail, dropped off at the office of the local board or at a location designated by the board. The bill also provides that a sufficient number of ballot drop boxes should be located around a jurisdiction. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support SB 29.