



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *Bill 3-26, Administration –
Immigration Enforcement Guidance – Required
The County Values Act***
March 3, 2026

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 social service agencies, synagogues, and schools throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, equity, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our nonprofits that serve the most vulnerable on a non-sectarian basis and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all residents of Montgomery County.

The JCRC supports Bill 3-26, the County Values Act, which prohibits immigration enforcement in County facilities, including parking lots, garages and vacant lots, without a valid judicial warrant. The Bill also requires County staff to report such activities and to post signs banning ICE.

Last year at the state-level, the JCRC supported the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which was folded into the County Values Act to become State law. This legislation gets to the heart of Jewish law and tradition which commands us in the Torah to welcome the stranger and to help those in need who are surrounded by people who are hostile. County Bill 3-26 expands the State bill to include all County facilities and not just “sensitive locations” such as public schools, libraries and hospitals. This bill also requires training, signage and access to legal support which is critical to ensure that our immigrant community is treated with dignity and respect.

The JCRC’s long-standing immigration policy resolution opposes state and local legislation that would direct local law enforcement agencies to seek out undocumented immigrants and to detain them for deportation by federal authorities. In Montgomery County we have been leaders in advocating for the immigrant community, and we will continue to do so. The JCRC is committed to ensuring that all residents, regardless of immigrant status, feel safe and protected, and that Montgomery County remains an inclusive, compassionate and welcoming community during this period of instability and fear. For these reasons, we strongly support Bill 3-26, the County Values Act.

