



2020 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

JFNA represents 146 Jewish Federations and over 300 independent Jewish communities across North America. JFNA's Washington office brings the Federations' voice to Capitol Hill and the White House, advocating for life-saving and humanitarian assistance in the United States and 60 other countries around the world. JFNA's public policy priorities for 2020 include:

Safeguarding the Jewish community from violence & responding to disasters by:

- Maximizing funding for the DHS Nonprofit Security Grant Program and accessing other public resources from federal, state, and local governments to address the security needs of high risk nonprofits and faith-based organizations.
- Defending and protecting Jews from domestic and global anti-Semitism.
- Supporting programs that respond to growing security threats such as domestic terrorism, and working with social media organizations to hinder the online dissemination of messages of hate.
- Enhancing coordination and partnerships among law enforcement agencies and ensuring they have sufficient resources to investigate and prosecute acts of terrorism and hate.
- Promoting reasonable gun violence prevention measures through status-based restrictions, more regulation of gun sales and criminal law enhancements, new ownership responsibilities, consumer safety protections, hardware and ammunition limits, and associated public health campaigns.
- Ensuring FEMA's disaster relief programs are accessible to faith-based organizations, expanding federal tax incentives to assist nonprofit and faith-based organizations recovering from domestic disasters, and advocating for public funding to build and support the physical and technological infrastructure of nonprofits.

Empowering older adults to age with dignity & an enhanced quality of life by:

- Supporting Holocaust Survivors through funding, partnerships, and robust home- and community-based services and promoting person-centered trauma-informed care for Survivors and other older adults.
- Advocating for senior transportation, nutrition, family caregiver support, and the Older Americans Act and other programs that promote aging-in-place and combat social isolation.
- Protecting the sustainability of the Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare programs.
- Promoting elder justice, protecting older adults from physical abuse and financial exploitation.

Promoting the Jewish Federations' global interests by:

- Combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy and sovereignty and the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Movement (BDS).
- Nurturing strong Jewish communities and developing meaningful connections between Jews in Israel and the diaspora.
- Strengthening the US-Israel relationship and safeguarding Israel's defensive capabilities.
- Supporting a two-state solution with Israel living in peace with a demilitarized Palestinian state.
- Opposing Iran's development of a nuclear weapons capability.
- Ensuring that Israelis can access U.S. visas, permitting them to work at Jewish communal institutions.

KEY LEGISLATIVE STAFF:

Elizabeth Cullen, Counsel, Health Policy – Elizabeth.Cullen@JewishFederations.org

Robert Goldberg, Senior Director Legislative Affairs – Rob.Goldberg@JewishFederations.org

Darcy Hirsh, Director of Government Affairs – Darcy.Hirsh@JewishFederations.org

Aaron Kaufman, Senior Legislative Associate – Aaron.Kaufman@JewishFederations.org

Stephan Kline, Interim Director of the JFNA Washington Office – Stephan.Kline@JewishFederations.org

Jonathan Westin, Senior Director Health Initiatives – Jonathan.Westin@JewishFederations.org

Steven Woolf, Senior Tax Policy Counsel – Steven.Woolf@JewishFederations.org

Maximizing incentives for & supporting interests of charitable organizations by:

- Preserving the existing charitable tax deduction, advocating for a new "above-the-line" charitable deduction for those who do not itemize, and expanding the IRA Charitable Rollover.
- Opposing any new federal or state regulation of donor advised funds or supporting organizations.
- Safeguarding nonprofits from regulations that threaten charitable activity or hinder advocacy.
- Prohibiting charities from intervening in political campaigns, and preventing houses of worship from engaging in religious practices in delivering publicly-funded social services.

Caring for those with the greatest health needs by:

- Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, the health safety net, and consumer protections for insurance, including coverage for preexisting conditions, access to care, and essential health benefits.
- Opposing efforts to transform Medicaid into a block grant, voucher, or capped health entitlement, while seeking pragmatic solutions to sustain the program, and furthering Medicaid state expansion.
- Supporting Federation partner health agencies while championing medical and health reimbursement rates that balance fairness and fiscal responsibility with additional support for home- and community-based services.
- Promoting long-term care coordination and financing solutions fostering accessibility and fiscal responsibility, such as the Independence at Home Act, while preserving health and long-term care expenditure deductions.
- Accessing information technology funding for health and human service organizations.
- Promoting mental health services including care coordination, tele health, and full mental health parity.
- Advancing healthier communities through wellness initiatives, preventive health programs, and reductions in the uninsured or underinsured population.

Sustaining services for those with the greatest needs by:

- Promoting policies to reduce food insecurity and hunger, supporting kosher food banks, protecting the SNAP Program, and strengthening child nutrition programs.
- Advocating for resources and promoting coordination among federal agencies that alleviate poverty for Jews and others with low incomes, including by safeguarding FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program that helps avert homelessness and support hunger prevention.
- Supporting affordable housing, including HUD Section 202 independent living and HUD 811 group homes.
- Opposing discrimination against protected classes; combatting bias based on religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status; and working with the LGBTQ community to defend existing laws and promote new policies and regulations to ensure civil liberties and equality.
- Supporting Jews and other minorities fleeing persecution by extending the Lautenberg Amendment and safeguarding the U.S. refugee program and HIAS' role as a national resettlement agency.
- Opposing policies or regulations that promote inhumane treatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including any expansion of the public charge provisions for documented immigrants, while supporting fair, compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform.
- Supporting resources that protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment.
- Promoting efforts to ensure an accurate population count in the 2020 U.S. census.

Advocating with & on behalf of people with physical, intellectual and psychiatric disabilities by:

- Encouraging full inclusion of people with disabilities and physical accessibility in all aspects of Jewish communal life and in the workplace.
- Supporting programs and services that enable people with disabilities to exercise self-determination and achieve maximum independence, including accessible transportation, supportive services, and respite care.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Reauthorizing the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project, offering states incentives to transition those living in institutions into community-based settings.
- Supporting job training and integrated employment for people with disabilities while promoting funding and policies to enhance recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion.

Expanding education opportunities by:

- Supporting public education while cultivating healthy, vibrant, and affordable Jewish day schools.
- Creating new tax incentives for primary and secondary education, including scholarship programs.
- Promoting Holocaust education and remembrance.
- Advocating for students with disabilities to receive educational equality, while supporting robust funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.