



## 2019 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

JFNA represents 147 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 2019 include:

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

- Safeguarding Holocaust Survivors through funding, partnerships, and supportive services and promoting person-centered trauma-informed care for Survivors and other older adults.
- Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act, accessing home- and community-based services, and advocating for public funding for senior transportation, nutrition, family caregiver support, and other programs that promote aging-in-place.
- Protecting the integrity of the Social Security and Medicare programs.
- Promoting elder justice, protecting older adults from physical abuse and financial exploitation.

### **Maximizing incentives for & supporting interests of charitable organizations by:**

- Protecting the existing charitable tax deduction, advocating for a new "above-the-line" charitable deduction for those who do not itemize, opposing any further limitations on the itemized deduction, and expanding the IRA Charitable Rollover.
- Safeguarding charities from regulations that threaten to reduce charitable activity, including any new limitations on donor advised funds and supporting organizations.
- Opposing restrictions on the advocacy rights of charities while preserving the Johnson Amendment which prohibits charities' intervention on behalf of or in opposition to political candidates.
- Instituting safeguards that prevent houses of worship from proselytizing or using other prohibited forms of religious practice to deliver publicly-funded social services.
- Promoting reasonable Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) insurance costs for charitable organizations that provide certain defined benefit pension plans to their employees.
- Advocating for nonprofit access to public funding to build and support infrastructure.

### **Preserving the role & responsibility of Federation health partners in caring for the most vulnerable by:**

- Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, the health safety net, and consumer protections for insurance, including coverage for preexisting conditions.
- 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, while protecting the current deductibility of health and long-term care expenditures.
- Promoting health information technology funding for behavioral health and long-term care.
- Promoting mental health services including full mental health parity.
- Advancing preventive health efforts and promoting efforts to reduce the number of uninsured.

### **Promoting the Federations' global interests by:**

- Combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy and sovereignty and the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Movement (BDS) through the Israel Action Network.
- Strengthening the US-Israel relationship and safeguarding Israel's defensive capabilities by maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge in the Middle East.
- Defending Jews from global anti-Semitism and protecting Jewish communities around the world.
- 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.

### **Safeguarding our community from terrorism & other forms of violence & responding to disasters by:**

- Maximizing funding for the DHS Nonprofit Security Grant Program and other DHS resources to address the needs of high risk communities.
- Promoting reasonable gun violence prevention measures.
- Safeguarding the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and its important role at FEMA, while promoting EFSP alignment with national strategies to end homelessness.
- Supporting programs that respond to emerging threats including new forms of domestic terror and violent anti-Semitism, active shooters and cyber-attacks.
- Advocating for resources to mobilize and respond to domestic disasters.
- Ensuring sectarian institutions are equally eligible as other nonprofits for public disaster relief, emergency assistance, and access to public services.

### **Sustaining services for the most vulnerable by:**

- Advocating for resources and promoting coordination among federal agencies that alleviate poverty for Jews and others with low incomes.
- Promoting policies to reduce food insecurity and hunger, including by supporting kosher food banks, protecting the SNAP Program, and strengthening child nutrition programs.
- Promoting affordable housing, including HUD Section 202 independent living and 811 group homes.
- Opposing anti-Semitism and other forms of prohibited discrimination including bias based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status.
- Working with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (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 codification or enforcement of new 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 and sexual assault and harassment.

### **Advocating with & on behalf of people with disabilities across the lifespan by:**

- Encouraging full inclusion of people with disabilities and physical accessibility for all aspects of Jewish communal life and in the workplace and ensuring that people with disabilities live in and receive supports that enable them to achieve maximum independence.
- 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 for recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion.
- Promoting accessible transportation and supportive services for people with disabilities, and respite care for caregivers.

### **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.
- Advocating for funding for early-childhood education and after-school programs.
- Promoting Holocaust education and remembrance.

#### **KEY LEGISLATIVE STAFF:**

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