

ANNAPOLIS EVENTS

2/23 Keep the Door Open
Rally on Lawyer's Mall

3/02 Non-Public School
Advocacy Day in Annapolis

4/10 Sine Die - Last Day of
2017 Legislative Session

BACK IN BALTIMORE

3/01 Auschwitz through
the Lens of the SS at
Chizuk Amuno

3/30 Trialogue Program at
Owings Mills JCC

4/23 Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Remembrance
Commemoration

5/21 Trialogue Program at
Church on the Square

R.S.V.P. to Noah Mitchel at
nmitchel@baltjc.org.

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Annapolis Update

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

Bill to Watch: HB498- Healthcare Decisions Act

On February 28, the House Health and Government Operations Committee will hold a hearing on HB498 - the Healthcare Decisions Act. This bill, sponsored by Baltimore County Delegate Shelly Hettleman, would allow individuals to prohibit someone from serving as their health care agent. This issue is especially important for domestic violence victims, such as those served by The Associated's own CHANA program.

These victims may be seeking separation, divorce or a protective order from an abusive spouse who remains in control of their healthcare decisions, an especially important issue in time of emergency when the victim is no longer deemed capable of informed decision making. This bill would grant such victims, and many others, protection from dangerous situations that put their health and safety in the hands of those who do not keep their best interests in mind.



Community Champion: Senator Guy Guzzone



What inspired you to take the lead on Keep the Door Open - a bill that expands access to community behavioral healthcare in Maryland.

"We have a mental health and substance abuse crisis across the state. 1 in 5 Marylanders are in need of some form of treatment. The lack of that treatment is devastating to individuals, families, and productivity in society. "

Why is this important for Marylanders?

"Keep the Door Open helps providers in communities give the services that are needed to keep folks out of hospitals and out of the criminal justice system. These are real societal problems that are costly to Maryland. We should be treating people in communities, not waiting until it is too late."

What is one thing you wish more people knew about the bill?

"The opioid issue has become more and more widely known across the nation, but that isn't the only issue we're facing. We need to work to treat a range of mental health and substance abuse issues that our community members and their families."