

Recap of BJC Legislative Priorities for 2019

Presented to BJC Board of Directors on April 11, 2019

BUDGET

Capital Budget Items:

- Hillel at University of Maryland, College Park – Received \$1 million, in addition to \$1 million previously allocated by state government.
- Sinai/LifeBridge – Received \$1 million for new ambulatory outpatient care building, in addition to \$4 million previously allocated by state government; \$1 million preauthorized for FY2021.
- Myerberg Senior Center – Received \$75,000 for long-overdue maintenance needs.
- Nonpublic School Construction and Security
 - \$3.5 million for infrastructure needs of aging buildings.
 - \$3.5 million for security infrastructure needs of aging buildings.

Operating Budget Items

- Funding to Associated Agencies and LifeBridge for health care, housing, Holocaust Survivors' assistance, domestic abuse and other social service needs – Level funding from previous fiscal year.
- BOOST (tuition assistance to families attending nonpublic schools) – \$7.5 million.
- Textbooks and Technology to Nonpublic Schools – \$6.5 million.
- Security
 - \$3 million to houses of worship at risk of hate crimes, to be used for personnel or infrastructure.
 - \$2 million to daycare centers and schools at risk of hate crimes, to be used for personnel or infrastructure.

Legislative Issues

We submitted over 90 pieces of written testimony and orally testified 3 dozen times.

(Note: Unless otherwise note, all of these bills are still awaiting the Governor's signature.)

- Hate Crimes: The General Assembly approved adding a hate crimes component to the threat to commit a crime, such as a phoned bomb threat or a letter. A bill to make certain hate symbols into automatic hate crimes failed to pass the Senate.
- Aging in Place: The General Assembly approved a bill creating a new fund to make grants to nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to expand and establish aging-in-place programs for seniors.
- Elder Abuse: A bill to create the Maryland Elder Abuse Victims Resources Committee fell short and will be worked on over the summer for the 2020 session.
- Holocaust Education: A bill to require education about the Holocaust and other major genocides did not receive a vote in a Senate committee.

- **Pimlico Redevelopment:** A bill to allow all slots money dedicated to racetrack improvements to be used for the redevelopment of Laurel Race Course was defeated. A bill to require that the owner of Pimlico meet with city and state officials to redevelop Pimlico did not receive a vote.
- **Public Safety Training Center:** Before any money can be spent on developing a public safety training center on the campus of Coppin State University, the city must conduct a study of the existing Center at Park Heights and Northern Parkway, and also examine the possibility of moving the Northwest District police station headquarters to that location.
- **Grace's Law:** The General Assembly approved a bill that would allow for stiffer punishment of people who cyberbully children, while also tightening the language and closing loopholes in the existing cyberbullying law.
- **Minimum Wage:** The General Assembly overrode a veto of the Governor to approve increasing the minimum wage, from \$10.10 up to \$15 by 2025. We worked with JCS and our coalition partners to ensure that provider rate increases were included in the bill so that social service providers and clients are not harmed.
- **End-of-Life Option Act (Physician-Assisted Suicide):** A bill that would allow terminally ill Maryland residents to obtain prescription drugs to end their own lives passed the House of Delegates, but it failed in the Senate on a tie vote.
- **Prescription Drugs:** The General Assembly approved created a board to limit the maximum prices that could be paid by consumers for prescription drugs, but it only applies to employees of state or local governments.
- **Polystyrene Ban:** The General Assembly approved making Maryland the first state in the country to ban polystyrene foam food containers and cups.
- **Renewable Energy:** The General Assembly approved a mandate that half of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2030.