



2018 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

JFNA represents 148 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 2018 include:

- 1. Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, wellness initiatives, and the health safety net by:**
 - Opposing efforts to transform Medicaid into a block grant or voucher, privatize Medicare, or cap health entitlements.
 - Supporting Jewish long-term care facilities, family service agencies, group homes, hospices, hospitals, home health agencies, and other partner health agencies.
 - 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.
 - Championing medical and health reimbursement rates that balance fairness and fiscal responsibility with additional support for home- and community-based services.
 - 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.

- 2. Maximizing incentives for and 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.
 - Ensuring that private activity bonds are a viable source of capital funding for charities.
 - Promoting reasonable Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation insurance costs for charitable organizations that provide certain defined benefit pension plans to their employees.
 - Advocating for nonprofit access to public funding streams to build and support infrastructure.

- 3. Empowering older adults to age with dignity and an enhanced quality of life by:**
 - Safeguarding Holocaust Survivors through funding, partnerships, and supportive services.
 - Accessing home- and community-based services and advocating for public funding for transportation, affordable housing, supportive services, and family caregiver support through programs like the Older Americans Act that promote aging in place.
 - Reducing barriers to senior employment, particularly for Baby Boomers.
 - Protecting the integrity of the Social Security Insurance and Medicare programs.
 - Promoting elder justice and protecting seniors from financial exploitation and physical abuse.

- 4. In coordination with JFNA's Israel Office, promoting the Federations' international interests by:**
 - Through the Israel Action Network, combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy and sovereignty and the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Movement (BDS), and promoting anti-BDS legislation.
 - Strengthening the US-Israel relationship and safeguarding Israel's defensive capabilities by maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge in the Middle East.
 - Opposing Iran's development of a nuclear weapons capability.
 - 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.

5. Safeguarding the Jewish community from terrorism and responding to disasters by:

- Maximizing funding for the DHS Nonprofit Security Grant Program to address needs of existing high risk communities, while expanding its applicability to other communities where risks have spread.
- Safeguarding the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and its critical partnership with FEMA.
- Supporting programs that respond to emerging threats including new forms of domestic terror and violent anti-Semitism, active shooters and cyber-attacks.
- Through JFNA's Emergency Committee, mobilizing and responding to domestic disasters.
- Ensuring sectarian institutions are equally eligible as other nonprofits for public disaster relief, emergency assistance, and access to public services.

6. Advocating with and on behalf of people with disabilities across the lifespan by:

- Encouraging full inclusion and physical accessibility for all aspects of Jewish life -- including Federations, synagogues, schools and community centers -- and in the workplace.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Reauthorizing the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project, offering states Medicaid incentives to transition those living in nursing homes and other institutions into less restrictive settings.
- Supporting job training and integrated employment while promoting funding and policies for recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion.
- Promoting accessible transportation, supportive services, and respite care for caregivers.
- Advocating for students with disabilities to receive educational equality and robust funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Promoting federal funding for research and services for Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities that challenge our communities.

7. Sustaining services for the most vulnerable by:

- Modifying sequestration (automatic spending cuts of federal programs) and challenging proposed regulations that would undermine the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Advocating for resources that alleviate poverty for Jews and others with low incomes.
- Promoting policies to reduce food insecurity, supporting kosher food banks, protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and strengthening child nutrition programs.
- Promoting affordable housing, including HUD Section 202 independent living and 811 group homes.
- Supporting resources and protections for victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- Opposing anti-Semitism and other forms of prohibited discrimination including bias based on race, gender, religion 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 religious minorities fleeing persecution by extending the Lautenberg Amendment, and otherwise safeguarding the U.S. refugee program.
- Ensuring that Israelis can access U.S. visas, permitting them to work at Jewish communal institutions.

8. Preserving 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.

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