

# Advocacy

## Maryland Jewish

### DAY RECEPTION 2025



## Ensuring Access to Religious Facilities

Given the rise of antisemitism and other forms of religious hate, we need to ensure that religious facilities remain accessible to their members and lawful visitors.

### **SB287/HB305: Criminal Law - Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious Facility – Prohibition (Sen. Chris West/Del. Sandy Rosenberg)**

Modeled after legislation preventing the blocking of access to medical facilities, this legislation would establish a misdemeanor penalty for those who block access to the entrance of religious facilities. Religious facilities include places of worship, a cemetery, a religious school, educational facility, community center and the grounds adjacent to them.

### **Why is this important to the Jewish Community?**

As incidents of protest increase across the country, it is important that religious facility access remains a priority, and that people feel safe entering them. We have seen students at Hillels on college campuses and community members at their local synagogues feel intimidated and fearful of entering these facilities because protestors have blocked the entrances. This behavior is unacceptable, and access should be safeguarded by the state.