

Over the years, I have tried to provide help and guidance to the community's advocates in Annapolis. Applying my knowledge of the legislative process for the benefit of the community is one of my priorities and, if I may say, is a good deed.

1. Do you support or oppose the continued funding in the state budget which provides scholarships to low income students who wish to attend a nonpublic school whose tuition does not exceed the average public school per-pupil cost? Support, Oppose?

I support the BOOST program and my advocacy during the 2018 session helped bring about a \$1.5 million funding increase, for a total of \$7.6 million in Fiscal Year 2019 for the BOOST Scholarship program for these low-income students.

The Jewish community in Maryland and throughout the world prides itself on being an educated community, and, indeed, with the exception of basic living needs, education is its foremost priority. For a substantial number of families, a comprehensive Jewish education is of sufficient importance that parents commit to educating their children in dual-curriculum sschools.

This education expense is a substantial financial burden on the many families that cannot really afford their tuition payments. Nonetheless, the tuition burden remains the primary "kitchen table issue" within the community. In light of this economic burden, many of my constituents have looked to State government for assistance and limited relief.

BOOST has tremendous impact. It alleviates financial burden on struggling families and improves academic outcomes.

We can continue to increase funding for BOOST and also meet the needs of our pre-K- 12 children in public schools, as set forth in the preliminary recommendations of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

2. Do you support or oppose maintaining at least \$6 million in funding in the state budget to provide textbooks and technology to students attending Maryland nonpublic schools whose tuition does not exceed the average public school per-pupil cost? Support, Oppose?

I worked with former State Senator Barbara Hoffman and Rabbi Herman Neuberger to create the textbook aid program and have supported its funding from the outset.

3. Do you support or oppose the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program, which provides \$3.5 million in state assistance to help maintain and upgrade infrastructure and security in

nonpublic schools whose tuition does not exceed the average public school per-pupil cost? Support, Oppose?

I support the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program. Just as we are improving the Baltimore City Public Schools through the 21st Century School Buildings Program, the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program provides this benefit to other non-public schools. I'm dedicated to providing the best education for all students in Baltimore City, and that starts when they walk into a building conducive to learning. Maryland must be committed to providing the best and most-appropriate educational opportunities for all students. I was proud to be a part of the coalition that secured the \$3.5 million in new funding for security upgrades.

4. Do you support or oppose state funding that provides security grants to schools and day care centers, especially those that may be considered higher-risk to be targeted by a hate crime? Support, Oppose?

I support state funding for additional security at schools and day care centers considered at higher risk to be targeted by a hate crime. The Weinberg Park Heights JCC was evacuated twice last year due to bomb threats. I sponsored the bill that made hate crimes a felony in Maryland. I introduced House Bill 246 (2018) to make a threat to commit such a crime a felony as well, even if there was no attempt to carry it out, as happened at the JCC. HB 246 did not pass, but we did enact a law expanding hate crimes to include illegal actions directed at a group of people, not just an individual. This reflects the harm that such crimes can have on the greater community's sense of security.

This is a new program. As the House chair of the AELR Committee, which reviews regulations proposed by the Executive Branch, I will work with the advocates to make sure that the program is swiftly and properly implemented.

5. Do you support or oppose the use of school system owned/operated buses for nonpublic schools - especially when bell times/schedules are not in conflict? Support, Oppose?

I support the cooperative use of school system transportation to ensure that all students are given a world class learning environment. This arrangement exists in several other states, and as long as no conflict exists with bell times/schedules, it should be implemented in Maryland.

6. Do you support or oppose the issuance of state grants to volunteer emergency first-response organizations that, in addition to saving lives, also provide cost-saving benefits to state and local governments? Support, Oppose?

I support the use of volunteer emergency first-response organizations that save lives and provide cost savings to state and local governments like Hatzallah. In addition,

my staff and I helped secure the property tax exemption for Hatzallah's building on Taney Road.

7. How would you address the criminal activity in Northwest Baltimore? While it has lower crime rates in contrast to other parts of the city, it is still plagued constantly by elevated crime levels. Support, Oppose?

We should get guns off the street. We should target the serious offenders. We should address the conditions that breed crime.

A constituent met with me about juveniles who had threatened to rob him. What could be done to impose the appropriate penalty on young but serious offenders? The failure of witnesses to appear, I found out, is a major problem. I worked with Delegate Luke Clippinger on House Bill 1023. With the passage of this bill, a judge can now ensure a witness's attendance by issuing a court order directing that a witness be brought before the court.

I also support the crime prevention efforts of the Northwest Citizens Patrol and Shomrim.