



Dear Chairs Chang-Díaz and Khan,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, I respectfully urge the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to favorably report **H.104/S.37:An Act to Lift the Cap on Kids**, filed by Representative Marjorie Decker and Senator Sal DiDomenico, out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature.

One of the most sacrosanct obligations of a well-functioning society is the duty to provide our most vulnerable with the opportunity to grow, live and thrive. The JCRC has long worked with this great Committee and the entire legislature to create affirmative policies and programs, not only to alleviate suffering, but also to provide pathways for economic growth. Sometimes the obstacles are the result of the unintended consequences of policies, unforeseen changes in economic situations, or persistent barriers. However, in this case, the obstacle was affirmatively created to penalize our neighbors in poverty for the crime of having children.

The Jewish community as well as our network of providers, partners, activists and volunteers are dedicated to eradicating poverty, throughout the Commonwealth. We partner with people of all backgrounds, nationalities, family structures and locations and understand the devastating impact of this artificial cap on children. This Bill is an important step towards building a more just society.

Respectfully,

Aaron Agulnek

Director, Government Affairs