



2017 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Jewish Federations of North America (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.

1. **Maximizing incentives for and supporting interests of charitable organizations by:**

- Protecting the charitable tax deduction, advocating against limitations on the itemized deduction, and expanding the IRA Charitable Rollover.
- Safeguarding charities from regulations that reduce charitable activity, including any new limitations on donor advised funds or supporting organizations.
- Opposing new limitations on the advocacy rights of 501 (c)(3) organizations and supporting the current prohibition on their intervention on behalf of or in opposition to political candidates.
- Promoting safeguards that prevent houses of worship from proselytizing or using other prohibited forms of religious practice to deliver publicly-funded social services.
- Modifying new Labor Department overtime rules to limit negative financial impacts on nonprofits.
- Advocating for nonprofit infrastructure projects to be eligible for public funding or other incentives.

2. **In coordination with JFNA's Israel Office, promoting the Jewish Federations' international interests by:**

- Along with the Israel Action Network, combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy and sovereignty and the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Movement (BDS), while 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 globally from anti-Semitism and protecting Jewish communities around the world.
- Supporting a two-state solution with Israel living in peace with a demilitarized Palestinian state.

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 such as transportation, affordable housing, supportive services, and family caregiver support through programs like the Older Americans Act to promote aging in place.
- Funding research and services for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.
- Reducing barriers to senior employment, particularly for Baby Boomers.
- Protecting the integrity of the Social Security insurance program.

4. **Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, wellness initiatives, and the health safety net by:**

- Opposing efforts to turn Medicaid into a block grant or voucher, privatize Medicare, or cap health entitlements.
- Supporting partner health agencies including nursing homes, family service agencies, assisted living facilities, and hospitals.
- Promoting long-term care coordination (that includes improved systems for patient care) and financing solutions that foster affordability and accessibility, while protecting the current deductibility of health and long-term care expenditures within the tax code.
- Championing medical and health reimbursement rates that balance fairness and fiscal responsibility with additional support for home- and community-based services.
- Accessing health information technology funding for behavioral health and long-term care.
- Promoting mental health services including full mental health parity.
- Reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program and advancing preventive health measures.
- Promoting efforts that would reduce the number of uninsured.

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

- Maximizing funding for the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program.
- Supporting the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
- Advocating for resources to oppose emerging threats such as cyber-attacks and active shooters.
- Through JFNA's Emergency Committee, leading providers to swiftly mobilize and respond to domestic disasters.

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 at Federations, synagogues, schools and community centers) and in the workplace.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Supporting job training and integrated employment while promoting funding and policies for recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion.
- Advocating for affordable and accessible transportation, housing, supportive services, respite care for caregivers, and the right of all people with disabilities to live in and receive supports in their own homes and communities.
- Promoting educational equality for students with disabilities and robust funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Funding research and services for developmental disabilities, particularly Autism Spectrum Disorders.

7. Sustaining services for the most vulnerable by:

- Modifying sequestration (automatic spending cuts of federal programs) to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Advocating for resources to alleviate poverty for Jews and others with low incomes.
- Ending food insecurity, supporting kosher food banks, protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and strengthening child nutrition programs.
- Supporting resources and protections for victims of domestic violence and elder abuse.
- Opposing domestic anti-Semitism, racism, bigotry and hate crimes.
- Working with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) 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, including by extending the Lautenberg Amendment, and safeguarding the U.S. refugee program.

8. Preserving education opportunities by:

- Supporting public education while cultivating healthy, vibrant, and affordable Jewish day schools.
- Creating new education tax credits.
- Promoting early childhood education and after-school programs.
- Promoting Holocaust education and remembrance.

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