



JEWISH CALIFORNIA CAPITOL SUMMIT





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2026 Capitol Summit Priorities

A bold declaration that Jewish Californians stand up for ourselves and for all people

Jewish California strives to represent our own community's core safety concerns and provide critical social services to all those in need. This slate of 30+ bills and budget requests meaningfully address the Jewish community's core issues and values.

The following bills and budget requests will be our focus issues at Capitol Summit, May 11-12.

See the full list at: jewishcal.org/2026-legislation

COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM & HATE

After last year's progress addressing antisemitism in K-12 schools, we will focus this year on protecting our nonprofits and houses of worship, and on education and data collection to better understand the diversity of the Jewish community.



AB 1836 (Gabriel) // Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) – \$100 million

Budget: Funds security infrastructure for synagogues and nonprofits at risk of hate-motivated violence.

Legislative: Expands grant eligibility to cover high-risk community events held off-site.



AB 2664 (Bauer-Kahan) SAFE WORSHIP ZONE ACT

Establishes a 100-foot bubble zone around entrances to houses of worship, protecting safe access to religious institutions while respecting constitutional protest rights.



SB 1387 (Stern) JEWISH ETHNICITY

Ensures Jewish identity is captured in ethnicity data collection systems – in addition to existing religious categorization – to improve understanding of our diverse community and accuracy in hate-crime, healthcare, and other reporting.

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AT RISK FROM H.R. 1

H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill, includes provisions that threaten critical social services that our member organizations provide to vulnerable populations. These items encourage the state to respond to immigration, healthcare, and hunger benefits that are now at risk.



Protect Refugee Support – \$20 million

Federal policy changes have largely halted new refugee arrivals and cut funding for those who arrived in the last five years. This request funds services for recent refugees who have been cut off early from support.



AB 2161 (Bonta) PROTECT MEDI-CAL COVERAGE

H.R. 1 requires Medi-Cal recipients to file paperwork proving they meet new work requirements – but many eligible people will lose coverage simply because they don't know about or can't navigate the bureaucracy. This bill directs California to verify compliance using public data on people's behalf, so that low-income individuals don't lose healthcare due to paperwork burdens.



AB 2299 (Calderon) PROTECT FOOD BENEFITS

H.R. 1 imposes rigid work-requirement time limits that will cut off food assistance for nearly a million Californians – including previously exempted veterans, foster youth, people experiencing homelessness, and youth and older adult caregivers. This bill expands a state-funded food benefit program to replace what the federal government is taking away.



Lobby Meeting Worksheet: Group ____ Plan

Schedule

Time	Legislator/Staff	1021 O Street Room #:	Notetakers (use survey sheet)

Checklist

Meeting Agenda	Who
1 Meeting Introduction • Hand them leave-behind packet • Introduce Jewish California & Capitol Summit, purpose and breadth of lobby meetings (700 people, meeting w/ 110 offices)	Group leader
2 Introduction by each group member - include: • Relevant organization(s) you are affiliated with • Mention if you live, work, or associate with their district • Personal meaning of why you are here and connect to one of the issue areas	Every group member Last person: Ask legislator and/or staff to introduce themselves too
3 Antisemitism & Hate – see talking points: • “Background” and “Requests” • Ask if legislator currently has position on items (<u>take notes</u>) • Ask if legislator/staff has any questions (<u>take notes</u>)	Background: _____ Requests: _____
4 Supporting Programs at Risk from H.R. 1 – see talking points: • “Background” and “Requests” • Ask if legislator currently has position on items (<u>take notes</u>) • Ask if legislator/staff has any questions (<u>take notes</u>)	Background: _____ Requests: _____
5 Conclusion • Ask if there is anything we can do for them. • Tell them Jewish California will be in touch & respond to any questions they have. <u>Get business cards</u> of staff. • Thank them for their time and take a group picture!	_____

COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM & HATE

Background

- Antisemitism remains at historic highs. The California Department of Justice now ranks the Jewish community as the **second-most targeted group in the state** – even though we're just 3% of the population.
- A recent AJC study found that **one in four Jews doesn't feel safe** walking into a Jewish institution. And it's easy to see why. Violent protests outside Wilshire Boulevard Temple and Adas Torah in Los Angeles. A mass shooting at a Hanukkah gathering at Bondi Beach in Sydney. Two Jewish men beaten in San Jose just for speaking Hebrew in public.
- We also know we're not alone in this. The AAPI, LGBTQ, Black, Latino, and Muslim communities are facing their own surges in hate – and **hate targeting any one of us makes all of us less safe**. Our package protects Jews and all Californians.
- Last year, we made major progress fighting antisemitism in K-12 schools. This year, we are focused on three urgent gaps: **protecting our physical safety**, **protecting access to worship**, and ensuring the state actually **sees our community in its data**. We're asking for your support on the following items.

Requests

- First we'd like to discuss the **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**. Demand for security grants is through the roof: over 1,600 organizations applied last cycle, requesting more than \$325 million. The state's commitment is expiring, so we're asking the Legislature to step up again and **allocate \$100 million**.
- **AB 1836 (Gabriel)** pairs with that, which finally lets grant funding **cover off-site events** – cultural festivals, Pride celebrations, religious gatherings held outside an organization's building. Bondi Beach is exactly why this matters. We're co-sponsoring with Equality California.
- Next, **AB 2664 (Bauer-Kahan)**, the **Safe Worship Zone Act**. It creates a 100-foot zone around the entrances to houses of worship where protesters can't approach congregants on their way in or out. It's modeled on a Colorado law the Supreme Court upheld, and it carefully protects both freedom of religion and freedom of speech – two First Amendment rights that must coexist.
- Finally, **SB 1387 – Jewish ethnicity**. Being Jewish is about so much more than religion. It's culture, history, language, food, values, and community. We're a peoplehood, an ethnicity. But California law and data systems still only list us as a religion, excluding the majority of Jews for whom religion is not central to their Jewish identity. This leaves us **undercounted in hate-crime reporting, student outcomes, and public health research**.
- That gap has real consequences. A hate crime like the attack in San Jose – where two Jewish men were assaulted for speaking Hebrew, not for worshipping – often doesn't get counted as antisemitic. We also lose the data we need to research cures for Jewish genetic conditions, to track campus climate, and to understand how Jewish students are actually faring.
- Good data creates good policy, and California has expanded ethnic data collection for other groups in recent years. SB 1387 does the same for us. It doesn't create a new program. It doesn't touch our religious categorization. It simply adds Jewish as an option when ethnicity data is collected – helping people better understand the **diverse ways we engage with our Jewish identities**, and providing better data to shape policy for our community.

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AT RISK FROM H.R. 1

Background

- Critical programs that millions of Californians rely on are under threat. The federal government's H.R. 1 makes **significant cuts to the social safety net** – lifeline programs that vulnerable communities depend on to get by.
- Even as the Jewish community confronts rising threats of its own, we remain firmly rooted in the principle of *tikkun olam* – our commitment to *repairing the world* and standing in solidarity with those in need.
- Today, we're focused on three areas where H.R. 1 is doing real damage: **healthcare, food assistance, and refugee services**.
- This is deeply personal for us. Nearly every Jewish family in California carries a **story of fleeing persecution** and finding refuge here. And many Jews continue to rely on human services to meet their basic needs today.
- That legacy is why **dozens of Jewish human service agencies** across the state are on the front lines today – serving refugees, low-income families, and older adults of all backgrounds who rely on Medi-Cal and CalFresh. It's why we show up for vulnerable communities now, and why **we can't stand by as the safety net that has supported us recedes**.
- We're asking for your support on three items that protect Californians from the impacts of H.R. 1.

Requests

- First, a **\$20 million budget request for refugee support**. The federal government has effectively halted new refugee arrivals – but this is about the refugees already here, who were relying on a defined period of resettlement services and are now being cut off partway through.
 - They're working to **build stable lives and contribute to California's economy** and just need the rest of what they were promised to succeed. Jewish Family Service agencies are among California's leading refugee service providers. \$20 million is the minimum these agencies need to maintain these critical services over the next year.
- Next, **AB 2161 (Bonta) to protect Medi-Cal coverage**. H.R. 1 now requires Medi-Cal recipients to file paperwork proving they meet new work requirements – and a lot of eligible Californians are going to lose their healthcare simply because they don't know about it or can't navigate the bureaucracy.
 - With this bill, the state will use data it already has to verify compliance automatically, and only reach out to people as a last resort, which will **allow many people to keep their healthcare**.
- And finally, **AB 2299 (Calderon) to protect food benefits**. New federal limits will cut off food assistance for **nearly a million Californians** – including veterans, former foster youth, people experiencing homelessness, caregivers, and older adults.
 - AB 2299 expands California's Food Assistance Program to include people who lose federal benefits. We must ensure that no one goes hungry.