June 19, 2019

Chair John J. Lawn
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Room 445
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Lawn,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, I urge the Joint Committee on Elections to **favorably report *Election Day Registration* legislation, including S. 396, H. 636 and H.685**, out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature.

A well-functioning democracy is dependent upon an informed and engaged electorate with robust participation and elected officials truly representative and reflective of home communities. As a society, we must remain on guard for efforts that disenfranchise the electorate, be they affirmative policies, physical impediments or unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

The time has come for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to eradicate the arbitrary voter registration guidelines and join the 21 other states across the country who have adopted Election Day Registration (EDR). The evidence is clear and has been clear since first introduced: EDR increases turnout with virtually no fraud. Faulty registrations, clerical errors and general confusion keep many voters at home, even here in Massachusetts.

These are perilous times for our system of government, and it is crucial for a strong message to be sent from Beacon Hill that our systems work, that they are fair, and that they are responsive to the changing times. It is our responsibility to open the doors of government so that the historically disenfranchised have a stake in their government.

Respectfully,

Aaron Agulnek
Director, Government Affairs

cc: Joint Committee on Election Laws

Chair Barry R. Finegold	Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier
Vice Chair James B. Eldridge	Representative Alan Silvia
Vice Chair William J. Driscoll	Representative Steven Ultrino
Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz	Representative Daniel R. Carey
Senator Brendan P. Crighton	Representative Kathleen R. LaNatra
Senator Edward J. Kennedy	Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa
Senator Ryan C. Fattman	Representative Marc T. Lombardo
Representative Russel E. Holmes	