



January 13, 2025

To the Montgomery County Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors, membership, staff and clients of the Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) in support of Bill 26-24, Police – U Visa Law Enforcement Certification Policy (The “Uplifting Victims and Immigrant Safety” Act)

The Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) is a non-profit agency headquartered in Montgomery County and serving the Greater Washington, DC region. JCADA works to end intimate partner violence (IPV) in the local Jewish community through education and relationship skill building and to support all survivors of IPV in the Greater Washington DC area seeking relief from relationship abuse. JCADA’s professional services team provides free trauma counseling through one on one and group therapy sessions; and victim advocacy support to JCADA’s clinical clients who are struggling to meet their basic needs because of the abuse. JCADA offers free, interactive learning experiences for Jewish middle schoolers, teens, adults, clergy, and other professionals looking to learn more about the dynamics of healthy relationships, the warning signs of abuse, strategies for supporting friends and loved through abusive relationships, the connections between Jewish values and healthy relationships and more.

Around 10% of JCADA’s clients are immigrants. We know that U visas are an important tool in leveraging a new safe home here in the US and in Montgomery County, one of the most diverse counties in the nation, with a 33% immigration rate. We have helped our clients identify experiences that meet the criminal legal definition of domestic violence or of any other crime, that could help them qualify for a U visa This has been important part of their path to empowerment. We also host a monthly Immigrant Women’s Empowerment Resiliency Group, that has been our longest running and most highly attended Resiliency Group at JCADA.

Please let me know if you have any further questions about JCADA, our work with survivors of intimate partner violence, or our work with immigrants. Thank you for introducing **Bill 26-24, Police – U Visa Law Enforcement Certification Policy (The “Uplifting Victims and Immigrant Safety” Act)** to keep our clients safer in Montgomery County.

Best,

Amanda Katz

Executive Director, JCADA