



Ohio House of Representatives | Committee on Ways & Means  
Testimony in Support: HB 177 Mike Klapper  
Columbus, OH | October 10, 2017

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Klapper, and I am the Assistant Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus and a Westerville Ohio resident. I write on behalf of the Jewish Community Center of New Albany in support of HB 177.

Because Jewish Community Centers are not a fitness club, but a community center, and we should be treated as such. The JCC in New Albany does not have any fitness equipment. This is a school for young children, where over 150 families and children attend for childcare and summer camp.

Who we are; what we do

The Jewish Community Center of New Albany began in 1997 to provide Early Childhood services and care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age in the North East part of Columbus. That mission has not changed. Over 150 children receive care from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Many of these families have two working parents and need the services the JCC New Albany provides.

This year the JCC will provide over a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) in financial assistance for early childhood, after school care, and summer programs.

For over 50 years the JCC has been serving families with a child with special needs. 50 campers, 4-21 years of age, with special challenges from Autism to Cerebral Palsy to difficult behavioral situations, find the JCC home for the summer for day camp, including children from JCC New Albany.

Please understand that although it is called the Jewish Community Center New Albany more than forty five percent (45%) of our membership is not Jewish.

Our JCC New Albany parents should not be charged tax as we have no gym and our focus is on community service.

The JCC unites the New Albany community, and as a nonprofit, takes any revenue we make and reinvests it directly back into providing for our mission work and for services for all.

There's something  
about this place.

[www.columbusjcc.org](http://www.columbusjcc.org)

JCC Main Campus  
1125 College Ave  
Columbus, OH 43209  
614.231.2731

JCC New Albany  
150 E. Dublin-Granville Rd  
New Albany, OH 43054  
614.855.4885

JCC North  
6121 Olentangy River Rd  
Worthington, OH 43085  
614.764.2414

Jennifer Gammeyer  
Board President  
Carol Folkert  
Executive Director

**Conclusion:**

The ability to lower our membership price would make our programs more accessible to working parents.

Therefore on behalf of our families, I urge you to reverse this tax policy and join 45 other states that do not tax nonprofit centers providing these important services.