



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator William C. Smith Jr, Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: January 28, 2021

RE: SB234 Personal Information – State and Local Agencies –  
Restrictions on Access

### **The MLLC supports SB234 Personal Information – State and Local Agencies – Restrictions on Access.**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB234.

The U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for identifying and eliminating cross-border crime and any threats to national security and public safety. For their operations, they often use databases such as criminal justice networks and driver and transportation records to obtain information about a person, such as their home address or license plate number. In our case, ICE has accessed Marylanders' personal information through the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

ICE has run [facial recognitions](#) on millions of Maryland drivers. When the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to grant undocumented immigrants the ability to obtain a driver's license (many who are Latinos), federal agents gained access to personal data and used facial recognition technology to target individuals who have these specific driver's licenses. This is a very concerning piece of information, as this would mean that this agency has unlimited access to drivers' photos without the knowledge or consent of the drivers. The agency has already acted on this access to find non-criminal undocumented Marylanders.

SB234 prohibits state agencies from sharing facial recognition and personal information to U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for purposes of civil immigration and criminal immigration enforcement without a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this state. Additionally, the MVA must report to the Maryland General Assembly on the requests received from ICE.

A notion of security and restriction needs to be established, since when information as sensitive as this becomes exposed, the hopes and dreams of many members of the immigrant community are left to perish.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on SB234.