



**Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee
January 27, 2021**

**HB 23 – Personal Information – State and Local Agencies –
Restrictions on Access**

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The ACLU of Maryland supports HB 23, which would protect the privacy of Maryland drivers who are immigrants, by requiring federal law enforcement authorities to obtain a warrant before accessing personal information that the MVA collects about motorists.

Currently, ICE can conduct wide-ranging searches of MVA records without oversight, obtaining personal information and running facial recognition searches for anyone who applies for a Maryland driver's license. Recent research from the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law Center shows wide-spread data-sharing between MVA and ICE. ICE has long utilized technology to target immigrants, and in the process sweeps up everyone in vulnerable communities. The ACLU-MD's grave concerns about the civil liberties risks of mass surveillance are heightened even more so when this type of surveillance only fuels ICE's deportation machine.

In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly recognized the need to extend driving privileges to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, to ensure that everyone who needs to drive to live their lives and take care of their families can do so. ICE's mass targeting of people's personal information puts immigrants and their families at risk, and endangers communities.

A free society demands that people be able to control who has access to information about them and under which circumstances. The ACLU-MD's commitment to immigrants' rights, privacy, and civil liberties compels us to call on local agencies to stop sharing residents' personal information with ICE and assisting with federal immigration enforcement. It is time to take back control of our information and ensure that Maryland communities do not collaborate with ICE.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 23.