

**Testimony to Support -
SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I would like to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

In my last 15 years of professional life, I worked in direct services to the Latino/-a population in Southeast Baltimore. People I worked with felt safe coming to our facilities as well as to their school-age children's schools and to health facilities in Baltimore. We did not ask their immigration status, as our goal was to help them raise healthy, educated children. However, in recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act SB 977 /HB 1431 takes critical steps to restore trust by ensuring that state and local agencies, as well as law enforcement entities, are prohibited from sharing personal information, facial recognition data, and access to public facilities with federal immigration authorities unless a valid warrant is presented. this will help our neighbors feel safe in utilizing the services their families need.

Thank you.

Marilyn Carlisle
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