

February 19, 2025
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TESTIMONY ON SB977- POSITION: FAVORABLE

State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: David M. Friedman

My name is David Friedman. I am a resident of Colesville/Cloverly in District 14. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I am an active member of Oseh Shalom, a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation located in Laurel, MD. In Jewish tradition, our sacred texts insist that we turn our own experiences of outsiders in a foreign land, something my maternal grandparents experienced, into compassion for those experiencing the same today. In fact, care for “the stranger” is mentioned more times in the Torah than any other commandment. Thus, I am obligated to stand up for the safety of immigrants in my community.

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) 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 legislation is crucial not only for protecting the privacy of all Maryland residents but also for fostering trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. By clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state, we promote the values of dignity, safety, and fairness. In 2021, the General Assembly took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data¹. I call upon the Senate to take action again at this critical juncture. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB977.**

¹ [2021.MGA HB23](#)