

Date of Hearing: February 19th

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TESTIMONY ON [\(SB977/HB1431\)](#) - POSITION: FAVORABLE
[Maryland Data Privacy Act](#)

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

FROM: Deborah Abramsky, CNM, MPH

OPENING: My name is Deborah Abramsky. I am a resident of District 47A, and am writing in strong support of SB977/HB1431, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife and resident of Mount Rainier, in Prince George's County. Mount Rainier has a diverse population and strong community spirit, which is why I have chosen to live here for over twenty years. I am a member of Prince George's Congregation Action Network and of the Upshur Neighborhood Alliance.

Throughout my career as a Nurse Midwife, I have provided care to medically indigent and immigrant communities. Over the last decade, I have worked at a Federally Qualified Health Center that serves people in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Some of the immigrant women to whom I provide prenatal, postpartum or gynecological care are undocumented, and have suffered extreme violence, trauma and uncertainty in their lives. With the current Administration calling for mass deportations, many of these women are fearful and anxious that they (or their family members) may be deported, even though they are law-abiding people who are working hard, sometimes at more than one job. They are just trying to support their families, live in relative safety and hope that their children will have better opportunities than they had, and be able to live secure and productive lives.

Since January 20, 2025, I have had women express to me that they are terrified of being deported, and even more so because this means they will be separated from their children, which is especially inhumane. They don't know what social, medical, or other institutional services they can trust. They are afraid that their medical, legal, or driving records can be used by ICE to deport them back to countries they left because of violence, threats of violence and poverty. This fear is accompanied by distrust in government institutions and services. This legislation would make sure that only a legal warrant grants ICE such access, and would mandate state departments to record instances of ICE access.

Government institutions and programs should be helping, not hurting immigrants who are trying to live secure and productive lives, and who deserve to be treated humanely and with respect. Government data collection should be for the benefit of the population, and not be shared with those who would like to deport immigrants without legal warrants. As community members, immigrants deserve to be treated like anyone else; private information should stay private unless there is an attested legal need with a warrant. As a concerned health professional and PGCAN member, I support the Maryland Data Privacy Act and hope the Committee will rule favorably to protect undocumented and all immigrants' rights.

Deborah Abramsky, CNM, MPH