



## Testimony on SB 977

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

#### Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

**Date: February 19, 2025**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is a statewide evidence-based organization of over 900 physicians and other health professionals and supporters that addresses public health threats as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, racial and social justice.

In recent years the sharing of contact information and other identifying data has created fear in the immigrant community because a trip to the doctor, the hospital, or a social services agency could result in detention and the disruption of life, even if the detention is without legal basis. Patients who live with such fear often delay seeking medical care for themselves or their children or even contacting the services that can make medical care accessible. This can be very risky, and sometimes has tragic consequences – both for the individuals involved and for the wider community.

**CPSR strongly supports SB 977**, which 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.

The eminent German physician and legislator Rudolf Virchow opined that “politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale.” By enacting SB 977 Maryland will be clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state, which will promote the values of dignity, safety, and fairness and will result in decreased fear and increased trust. This will clearly be an act to promote Public Health.

**CPSR urges the Committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.**

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