

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2025

Lois Wessel, DNP, FNP-BC  
Takoma Park, MD

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

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

**FROM:** Lois Wessel, DNP, FNP-BC

I am a resident of District 20 and am in support of SB977/HB1431, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.

I provide primary care to patients at CCI Health Services in Silver Spring, Maryland as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Many of my patients are newly arrived asylees and immigrants, both documented and undocumented. As the daughter of someone who fled Nazi Germany as a young child, I am proud to welcome newcomers to our diverse and supportive community.

I treat patients who are seeking a better life, fleeing war, poverty and intimate partner violence. They want what we all want---a safe place to live and to raise their families. My patients should not worry that their medical, legal and driving records could be used by ICE to deport them to dangerous situations where they would face poverty, violence and persecution. They need to trust that the schools and healthcare facilities they attend are safe places.

Our community members deserve to be treated fairly. Private information should stay private. I support the Maryland Data Privacy Act

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