

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 46. As a 60-something person who remembers the days before all our personal information was stored in the cloud, I am always worried about data security. This bill addresses the data security of a particularly vulnerable group: immigrants. My husband is an immigrant himself. **I am testifying in support of SB0977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

President Trump's cruel attack on immigrants has already begun, and it is incumbent upon Maryland to protect the people that he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, our neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities, pay taxes that support us all, and don't deserve to live in fear. Federal immigration authorities have a history of abusing state-held databases containing personal information in order to help them target immigrants. For instance, after Maryland allowed undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses in 2013, ICE began using MVA data in this way. In 2021, the General Assembly passed the Driver Privacy Act over the governor's veto to shut down this tactic. However, many other agencies in Maryland maintain databases of personal information that can include immigrants, and those databases are still open to ICE scrutiny. With the federal government on a mission to imprison as many immigrants as possible, we must act to close this loophole in our data privacy.

SB0977 would ban all Maryland state and local government agencies from sharing access to their databases of sensitive personal information, or information taken from those databases, with federal immigration authorities unless those authorities **have a Constitutionally valid warrant, signed by a judge,** authorizing their access to private information. In addition, SB0977 seeks to fight back against the president's revocation of the "sensitive locations" policy by requiring government agencies to deny access by immigration authorities to their buildings and facilities, unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. While this does not provide complete protection to people attempting to access resources and services, it at least makes it more difficult for ICE to target local and state government facilities for raids or general enforcement actions.

Commented [1]: If you're unaware, ICE agents usually don't have real warrants. They have a document they call a warrant, which is just a document written by someone at ICE directing that an individual be arrested. A constitutionally valid warrant requires a finding of probable cause for a search or arrest, and it is signed by a magistrate or judge- ie a neutral party has to review it.

The law does not require us to freely lend the federal government our resources to help President Trump conduct his anti-immigrant campaign. We must stand up for our friends and neighbors by refusing to be complicit. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jan Kleinman
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore