

NDWA DMV Chapter Data Protection SB977 Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Allison Yunda

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The National Domestic Workers Alliance is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win the respect, recognition, and labor rights of the nearly 2.5 million domestic workers—nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers—who play a crucial role in caring for our families and homes. Domestic workers perform vital tasks that enable all other work to happen. They are the caregivers who look after our children, the cleaners who maintain our homes, and the care providers who help our loved ones live with dignity and independence. While the National Domestic Workers Alliance is a national organization, our DMV chapter is a local, membership-based organization covering the geographical area of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most domestic workers are at the heart of some of the nation's most significant issues due to their identities and roles: they are primarily women—many of whom are women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage earners. Their lives are directly impacted by policies that shape the future of our economy, democracy, and society. And unfortunately, right now, many domestic workers are facing uncertainty and fear due to the federal attacks on immigrant communities.

We are hearing from many of our immigrant members in Maryland that they are living in fear daily. Many of our members have lived here for multiple decades without a path to a legal status. They have had children that were born in this country, they have taken care of other families through their professions- yet, now they feel more vulnerable than ever due to their immigration statuses.

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.

If state and local agencies have the protections to safeguard sensitive data from ICE, our members will feel a bit of peace in our state where many of them have lived and contributed to for decades.

NDWA DMV Chapter stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act

because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **NDWA DMV Chapter** once again calls on this legislature to act.

NDWA DMV Chapter **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.**

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977: HB 1431.pdf

Uploaded by: Alyssa Duda

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 19th

Alyssa Duda, LCSW-C
Silver Spring, MD 20902

TESTIMONY ON (SB977/HB1431) - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Maryland Data Privacy Act

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

FROM: Alyssa Duda, LCSW-C

My name is Alyssa Duda. I am a resident of District 18, writing in strong support of SB977/HB1431, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.

I am a proud resident of a diverse neighborhood in Wheaton, MD which includes a number of immigrants and their families. I am a business owner of a mental health private practice and am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977/ HB 143. In my private practice, I provide mental health support to many of whom are impacted by the erosion of data protection. I support them with the harmful and negative impact on their well-being, mental health, families and livelihoods. Additionally, I am involved with organizations such as Doctors for Camp Closure, Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid and have a long history of serving asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, documented migrants, their families and their support communities through direct service such as a school social worker, a mental health provider as well as in community mutual aid. I have seen and learned first-hand the detriment that not having data protection has not only on myself as an individual living within the state but the terror, fear and inability to engage in a community in a meaningful way has on my immigrant neighbors, colleagues and clients.

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/ HB 1431 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. I have seen first hand when these communities begin to fear how access to their data or their spaces compromises safety, disrupts essential lifesaving services and creates fear among the people I serve. I work with parents who are afraid to send their children to school or allow their children to receive access to services that are essential in eliminating childhood hunger such as free breakfast or lunch programs. I work with teenagers who have become so depressed about their future and the lack of safety in their world that they have become suicidal and are afraid to turn to the places where they usually seek support because they fear this will somehow identify them to authorities. I work with one woman who has stopped accessing essential medical care out of fear of how her data will be used and lack of protection in hospital spaces. Another family fears registering their vehicles or updating their Maryland ID's due to the fear of the unknown of how their data will be used or accessed. These families and individuals desperately want to participate in their communities and not only abide by regulations and law but be allowed to help

our community flourish by building businesses and educating their children. The passing of this bill would help ensure that these individuals and families would be allowed to safely access lifesaving medical care, their right to education or their rights to worship as well as support our communities in continuing to grow and thrive.

I, Alyssa Duda, stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

- Limit Access to databases and facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government unites must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court issued warrant
- Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric data, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due to legal processes are followed.
- Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency
- Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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 values of dignity, safety and fairness.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I, Alyssa Duda and Healing Pathways Counseling and Consulting LLC, once again calls on this legislature to act. I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/ HB 1431.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Duda, LCSW-C

data privacy act sb977 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Miotto

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB977/HB1431 Maryland Data Privacy Act
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee
February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committees,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB977/HB1431 Maryland Data Privacy Act**. For 10 years, I worked as a chaplain at hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice care providers. I worked with elderly, sick, and dying people and their families in the DC/Baltimore metropolitan area and in small towns and rural areas in Pennsylvania. Many of the families I worked with were immigrants and refugees from around the world, and many were coping with severe vulnerabilities in addition to being sick: they were often seeking employment, working to learn English, and struggling to deal with gigantic medical expenses. Frequently, our patients and their loved ones had endured trauma in their home countries in the form of political repression, imprisonment, famine, harassment because of their religion or ethnicity, gang violence and assault, rape, and even torture.

Regardless of their immigration status, many of my patients had fear or anxiety regarding sharing personal information and interacting with authority figures because of these traumatic experiences. It is not easy to trust police or judges, and even medical professionals, after a lifetime of experiences with corrupt, violent, unjust, or bigoted systems. Immigrants frequently fear being exploited, cheated, or trapped by authorities because they do not speak the language. As a member of the clergy, clients who were immigrants often disclosed to me, and asked for prayer and comfort regarding, crimes that had befallen them. I have heard clients share about being victims of rape, armed robbery, assault, domestic violence, and other terrible crimes. It was often difficult to persuade them to report these crimes. Now that immigrants are being openly and aggressively targeted by the Department of the Homeland Security and law enforcement, as directed by the current presidential administration, their fear of being investigated themselves by the police has increased exponentially. Now they are often afraid just to come to hospitals and clinics for care they desperately need, even for their children. Health care professionals are having a much tougher time convincing their immigrant patients both to seek health care and to report crimes, because they might be picked up by ICE there, or their data shared. More communicable diseases are being left untreated, more criminals are remaining on the streets, and all Marylanders are less healthy and less safe.

In 2010, I worked as an enumerator for the U.S. Census Bureau. At that time, many respondents I sought to interview who were immigrants refused to talk to me or were very reluctant. This is because of the fears of authority figures I mentioned earlier, and concerns that data would be used against them. Without this bill to reassure and protect people who are immigrants and refugees, they will be even less likely to participate in the next Census, making it even less accurate than 2010 or 2020. As a result, Maryland as a whole will suffer because it will receive less representation and less funding.

Another motivation for me to support the passage of this bill is my faith as a Quaker (Religious Society of Friends). I am a member of Patapsco Friends Meeting in District 9A. Our values, which we call testimonies, include equality, community, integrity and peace. Hunting down immigrants using private data given to schools, hospitals, food security services and asylum courts violates the testimonies of community and integrity, because it tears at the bonds of common humanity which bind all people. It violates the testimony of equality because it creates a separate set of law enforcement rules and standards for one segment of our society. Finally, this practice violates the peace testimony because it divides communities and sets individuals and families against each other, creating conflict and destroying peace.

There is a reason people want to come to the United States: They seek safety, fairness, justice, compassion, and opportunity. I hope we can continue to be a place where people know they can find these principles here. **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB977/HB1431 Maryland Data Privacy Act.**

Andrea Miotto, District 43A

SB977_AndrewMiller_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Miller

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025

Andrew J. Miller

Baltimore, MD 21209

Testimony on SB 977- 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

My name is Andrew Miller. I am a resident of District 11B, Chair of the Social Justice Advocacy Committee at Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Stevenson, MD, and Chair of the Synagogue Social Justice Roundtable, which has representatives from synagogue communities in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 977.

Our sacred texts command us to love the stranger, as we ourselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt, and many of our families came to the United States to escape persecution. For me and for many in my community, protection of immigrants is therefore a sacred obligation. For the last several years our congregation and others have worked in support of Afghan refugee families fleeing the Taliban by providing direct support with the help of refugee relief organizations working in collaboration with the federal government. That collaboration has now been terminated.

Many of us have also worked over the last 8 years, together with immigrant support organizations, to protect the rights of other immigrants who arrived in our country to take refuge from oppressive conditions elsewhere in the world. The new federal administration is now working to undermine the asylum system and to deport millions of undocumented immigrants and is even trying to override existing protections for immigrants with legal protected status. Immigrants are important contributors to our economy and to our communities here in Maryland, where they make up 17% of the population. They are not criminals. But many are now living in fear that they will be accosted at their places of work, at hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and in courthouses, and that their families could be separated as has already started to happen.

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.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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.

I therefore urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

BILL#SB0766_AnitaLampel_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Anita Lampel

Position: FAV

BILL#SB0766_AnitaLampel_FAV

Date of Hearing: Feb. 18, 2025

Anita Lampel

Bethesda, MD, 20817

TESTIMONY ON SB#0977- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Maryland Data Privacy Act

TO: Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Anita Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0977, Maryland Data Privacy Act.

I am a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, the Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, and a philanthropic organization giving funding to local nonprofits that serve impacted communities. My Jewish values teach me to the stranger because I was also a stranger.

When my mother was eleven-years-old, her parents crossed into the United States from Canada without papers, making them, my mother, and her four siblings all undocumented immigrants. At sixteen, my mother was removed from high school and sent back to Canada with her family because of their immigrant status. My mother was devastated, her siblings were devastated. And I lived with that trauma of hers.

We must do better. We must ensure our law abiding immigrants, who are the vast vast majority, are not unfairly targeted. This bill will prevent ICE from accessing state databases without a warrant, thus securing everyone's information. With threats to our privacy everywhere in the federal government, DOGE accessing our IRS information, we must make sure that no one looks at data that the state holds without a proper reason to do so.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0977.

Senate testimony data privacy (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Preston

Position: FAV

February 17, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB0977:

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

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committees,

My name is Anna Preston, and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 0977. I am a medical doctor currently in residency here in Maryland. In my clinical work, I have the privilege of treating and getting to know patients of all ages, from all walks of life. Through all my clinical encounters, the ability to guarantee the privacy and security of the clinical space has been paramount to my ability to earn patient trust and practice good medicine.

The right to privacy is a foundational principle of our democracy and of healthcare. Health records are among the most personal and sensitive documents a person can possess, containing detailed information about an individual's physical and mental health, medical history, and treatment. The laws and regulations that protect this information, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), ensure individuals can seek medical care without the fear that their private information will be used against them.

However, in the current political climate, the threat of data privacy violations looms large, as does growing public concern that immigration agents may use health records to target, detain, or deport individuals based on their immigration status. This creates a chilling effect on individuals seeking necessary care, leading to delays in treatment, refusal of care, or avoidance of healthcare facilities altogether. It undermines the trust between patients and healthcare providers, which is essential to the provision of effective medical care.

The promise of privacy emboldens my patients to share sensitive symptoms that lead to a lifesaving diagnostic workup, to disclose social needs that then be acted upon, or even just to share stigmatized health information, such as alcohol use, that helps me better understand their health risks and overall wellness. This bill is a crucial step in protecting the privacy and dignity of all residents, particularly immigrant communities, who have the right to seek healthcare without fear of discrimination, detention, or deportation.

In a world of exploding data generation and access, it is imperative to have checks and regulations in place regarding the use of that data by individuals in power. This bill would ensure that sensitive health records are only accessible by law enforcement officers with a valid, specific warrant, providing essential safeguards against abuse. By preventing immigration agents from accessing these records without clear legal cause, this bill upholds the rights of individuals to

receive healthcare in an environment free from the fear of government overreach. It affirms that healthcare access should not be compromised by concerns about one's immigration status.

This bill is not only a matter of privacy; it is a matter of public health. Fear of deportation or detention should never deter individuals from seeking the medical care they need. When people avoid healthcare, it not only harms them but also jeopardizes the health of entire communities. Preventing immigration agents from accessing health records without proper legal procedures ensures that all individuals can seek medical care without fear, improving public health and fostering trust between healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 0977 and stand in defense of privacy, fairness, and public health. By doing so, you will set a precedent of data security for all Marylanders and send a strong message that our state values the dignity of every person and prioritizes the health and safety of all its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Preston, MD, MPH
(860) 707-0867
annapreston49@gmail.com

SB977-Data Privacy Bill 2025 - Google Docs.pdf

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

SB977_AnnaRubin_FAV
Feb. 17, 2025
Position: Favorable
Bill: MD Data Privacy Act

TO: Chair Senator Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Dr. Anna Rubin, Columbia, MD 21045
DATE: Friday, Feb. 17, 2025

I encourage you to SUPPORT SB977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (**Maryland Data Privacy Act**). In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. **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.

I stand with my immigrant neighbors and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:
1- Limit Access to Databases and Facilities, 2- Protect Personal Information, 3- Provide Accountability and 4-Transparency and Ensure Enforcement and Penalties.

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.

Jews know that people who came here seeking safety, freedom and opportunities for their children - as many of us and our ancestors did - are integral parts of our faith, economic, and cultural communities. The insistence that we behave with care toward the stranger is the most repeated commandment in the entire Torah.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I once again call on this legislature to act.

I encourage the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Rubin, Co-Chair Social Justice Committee, Columbia Jewish Congregation and Core Team member, Jews United for Justice.

Witness testimony DCC MD SB0977.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Spector

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee OR House Judiciary Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I am a general and emergency psychiatrist treating people with psychosis and suicidal ideation, amongst other psychiatric emergencies. My duty is to treat patients regardless of their immigration status. My patients often already have paranoid ideation because of their baseline mental illness or temporary condition, and it is imperative they feel safe consulting a physician. Patient data must be protected to ensure my patients can trust me to help them. When data is shared with federal immigration authorities, trust is eroded, and my patients may not seek help. Patients who suffer alone are at higher risk of self-harm including suicide, as well as at higher risk of harming others including their own family.

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 /HB 1431 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.

My patients need to feel safe seeking my help, and they also need to feel safe doing the things that help their mental health and that of their community. My patients need to go to the doctor without fear, they need to go to school or send their children to school without fear and they need to be able to go to their place of worship without fear of immigration enforcement activities at these locations.

I have treated patients who were reluctant to divulge the number of problems in their life causing the enormity of stress driving them to think about suicide. If a person cannot even speak to their doctor, or a therapist, about their problems, these problems will grow into a festering wound. As providers, we need to be able to communicate amongst ourselves to best help our mutual patients and we cannot do that efficiently without using the digital means at our fingertips, email and electronic health records. If we know these are being scrutinized with the sole purpose of immigration enforcement, this could influence the way we document patient encounters. As physicians, we only have the best interest of the patient in mind; our patient notes must be protected by the doctor-patient relationship.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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.

FC SB977 .pdf

Uploaded by: Antonia Pena

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

My name is Fatima Cortessi, and I am a mother, a resident of Rockville, an immigrant, and a domestic worker. I am a proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter—the leading voice for domestic workers—including nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers in the United States. I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

Before having any form of protection around my immigration status in this country, I lived in constant fear. At work, I was threatened to be reported to immigration enforcement if I asked for better working conditions or fair payment for my labor. This fear not only impacted my peace of mind but also prevented me from seeking help or accessing essential services. Now that I have some protection, I can breathe a little easier, but I can't imagine how those who have nothing must feel, living each day under the shadow of this fear.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act **SB977** 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.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
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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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I once again call on this legislature to act.¹

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)

testimony in support of SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: anya bobrowski

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee **OR** House Judiciary Committee

February 19, 2025, OR February 27, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

HB: Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

Anya Bobrowski/Intern with CASAs policy team is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of **SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

Statement of Purpose

CASA, a community-based organization has been advocating for many years for a change in legislature in the Maryland General Assembly. CASA's mission is to work with the immigrant community to ensure their voices are heard. CASA is very committed to the immigrant community and is moving forward with meaningful immigration reform in Maryland.

Something that inspires me to support this issue, is that I believe that individual data and information privacy should be protected under SB977/HB1431. This will ensure the safety of one's personal information and data information based on their status in the state of Maryland. An individual should not be scrutinized or have their data and personal information used against them depending on their immigration status. I believe that the concept of using someone's data information and personal information against them is completely unfair and there should be restrictions on whether state or local agencies should be able to use data and private information against an individual. Thinking about it in a sense, would you want someone to be able to access your private data information without probable cause? If there is no probable cause why access the information at all?

Something that drives me to protect sensitive locations as well as protecting data privacy, is that I believe that if you are in the country legally or illegally, there should be protections in place. This does not mean in any circumstances an individual is a criminal. People come to the United States to find a better life, and to work, while also providing for their families. You never know someone's story and how they got here, but being able to protect these communities and individuals from ICE and protecting them from having their private data searched seems like a very beneficial cause that will protect families and individuals from being targeted based on their status.

Background

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 /HB 1431** 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.

Currently, clients and members of the community, as well as members of CASA feel as if they are not being protected by laws put in place by the Maryland General Assembly. Many are afraid to attend school, go to the hospital, go to the store, courthouses, etc. Because ICE enforcement officers are targeting these sensitive locations. Now that data privacy protections have led to increased fear within the immigrant community, members of the community may feel unsafe to share private information with said locations, (schools, hospitals, law enforcement, courthouses, etc). This fear of protective uncertainty can put stress on a lot of individuals as well as make them lose trust in the system that is supposed to protect them from the issues being addressed. Data privacy protections would raise more certainty and allow the community to feel as if their private data information is not being used against them as well as being able to share private information with people of importance, but without these protections, individuals can not do so.

Anya Bobrowski/Intern with CASAs Policy Team stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
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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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **CASA**, once again calls on this legislature to act.¹

I, Anya Bobrowski **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.**

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)

SB 977_ArielleJuberg_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

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 8. **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 we need to protect the people that he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, our neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities 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. 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Support- SB 977- MD Data Privacy Act - Undocumente

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV

**Testimony to Support -
SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I would like to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

In my last 15 years of professional life, I worked in direct services to the Latino/-a population in Southeast Baltimore. People I worked with felt safe coming to our facilities as well as to their school-age children's schools and to health facilities in Baltimore. We did not ask their immigration status, as our goal was to help them raise healthy, educated children. However, 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 /HB 1431 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 will help our neighbors feel safe in utilizing the services their families need.

Thank you.

Marilyn Carlisle
Senate District 43

Support- SB 977- MD Data Privacy Act - Undocumente

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony to Support - SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

To: Senator William Smith, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate, Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Date: February 19, 2025

Dear Senator Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony IN SUPPORT OF **SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**.

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 /HB 1431 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 Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.twitter.com/uulmmd

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 information sharing with federal immigration enforcement, we promote our values of dignity, safety, and fairness.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland once again calls on this legislature to act.¹

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across the state, calls me to promote and affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations, a value that is inherent in protecting the right of privacy and to be secure from unwarranted intrusions and searches as stated in Article 46 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

I encourage the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

Thank you.

¹ 2021, MGA HB 23

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act_BH.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Hauck

Position: FAV

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 45. I am a voter, homeowner, and active community member. **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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

Barbara Hauck

3420 Harford Road

Baltimore, MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977_Barbara Schaffer_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Schaffer

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Barbara Schaffer is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

My name is Barbara Schaffer, I am a resident of Rockville, MD and reside in MD District 17. The present political climate and 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.

As a member of Jews United for Justice and as a concerned citizen, I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

Respectfully,

Barbara Schaffer
109 Monument St.
Rockville, MD 20850

SB 9977 - CANDLE testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Birgit Sharp

Position: FAV



Testimony of CANDLE
Regarding Senate Bill 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act
Submitted by Birgit Sharp, February 17, 2025
Favorable

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of CANDLE, the Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties and Equality based in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties. Our organization supports Senate Bill 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.

Enacting this bill will further safeguard the privacy of personal data collected and managed by state and local governments and their affiliates. While this proposed legislation will protect the rights and well-being of all members of our community, it is urgently needed to protect vulnerable immigrant populations from the potential overreach of federal immigration enforcement into local affairs.

- **Protects Sensitive Information:** By restricting the access of federal immigration enforcement to local databases and facilities without a warrant and clearly identifying the record to be accessed, this bill safeguards sensitive personal information of individuals served by state and local programs. It reinforces the principle that using essential services should not expose individuals to immigration enforcement.
- **Upholds Due Process:** The bill rightly requires a valid warrant issued by a court before access to databases or facilities is granted for immigration enforcement purposes. This bill prevents random searches through private data by requiring that the federal immigration enforcement party clearly identify the record to be accessed. This upholds the fundamental principle of due process and ensures that any such actions are based on legal authority.
- **Promotes Transparency and Accountability:** The reporting requirements outlined in the bill, including tracking requests for information and reporting on compliance, will provide transparency and accountability. This data will allow the public and policymakers to understand the scope of federal immigration data search activities within our state and assess the impact on our communities.
- **Civil Penalties:** This bill also includes civil penalties. Our group appreciates the addition of these penalties with the hopes that these penalties will help deter violations.

Our community action group believes that SB 977 is a step towards protecting the privacy rights of all Marylanders so that services can be provided to residents without fear of causing more harm than good. We urge the committee to give this bill a favorable recommendation. Thank you.

candle.shines25@gmail.com

Far better to light the candle, than to curse the darkness.

WitnessWrittenTestimonyCNS_SBSB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Catherine Njiru-Sewer

Position: FAV

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I, Catherine Njiru-Sewer DO is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I have always had a passion for working for under-resourced patients and particularly the immigration population because of their commitment to come to the US for a better life. We cannot excuse those who come here to commit crimes, those are few and far in between, what we cannot ignore is those who legitimately come to this country and are willing to do the lowest of jobs to purchase the necessities of life and most of contribute to the US economy. I was one of those immigrants who came here lawfully and focused all my energy into becoming who I am today, a Physician who is committed to the well-being of my immigrant population, regardless of social status or ability to pay for healthcare. My patients are now very scared of coming to the clinic, it has ceased to be a safe space where they felt like they were treated with dignity. As physicians, we are supposed to protect our patients from harm and provide recommendations on how to alleviate stress, but this legislation has left us with few options, if any, on how to protect our patients from the psychological impact that ICE can infiltrate a safe space such as a clinic can have. This law needs to be stopped so we can do what we are trained to do for our patients, heal.

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 /HB 1431 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 other day, while caring for a couple who are trying to obtain their legitimate papers, they described how scared their children are after hearing rumors that ICE had come to their school. The couple was not only terrified for their children but also deeply fearful of being separated from a family member. This fear made them consider keeping their children from school and the clinic. This couple also has an autistic child, so accessing crucial resources for their child's development, coupled with the stress of not knowing if their family unit will remain intact, is heartbreaking and unimaginable.

I, Catherine Njiru-Sewer DO stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance

and transparency.

Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. ORG, once again calls on this legislature to act.

I, Catherine Njiru-Sewer DO urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

SB0977 State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of F

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0977
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative

Coalition Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0977 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are appalled at the prospect of federal immigration authorities' unauthorized access and misuse of personal data collected by our state and local agencies and paid for by our tax dollars. This bill aims to protect the privacy of Maryland residents by restricting state and local agencies from providing access to databases, facilities, or buildings to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without proper legal authorization. The bill seeks to ensure that personal data is not used for federal immigration enforcement without a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court.

SB0977 mandates that state and local agencies deny access to personal information and photographs unless presented with a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court. It requires the Attorney General to enforce these provisions and outlines disciplinary actions for state employees who violate the act. The bill also prohibits the use of facial recognition technology by state or local agencies for federal immigration enforcement purposes without proper legal authorization.

By limiting access to personal data, the bill helps prevent the potential misuse of information and protects residents from unwarranted federal immigration enforcement actions. This is particularly significant for our immigrant communities, as it provides an additional layer of protection and promotes trust in state and local agencies. The bill ensures that personal data remains safeguarded, fostering a sense of security and privacy for all Maryland residents. By upholding these principles, SB0977 aligns with Maryland's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of its residents.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition steadfastly supports this bill and similar initiatives that protect all Marylanders' privacy and security.

Senate Bill# 977 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Patterson

Position: FAV

Chris Patterson

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 977
Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the committee. My name is Chris Patterson, and I am a parent, educator, member of the Baltimore AROS table and a board member of Baltimore City Parent Community Advisory Board. I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 977.

SB 977 would protect Maryland residents by preventing federal immigration enforcement from accessing personal information, data systems, and facilities without a valid warrant. This legislation is essential to ensuring that all members of our community feel safe when interacting with schools, hospitals, and public institutions.

As an educator who works closely with immigrant students and their families, I have seen how the fear of immigration enforcement affects individuals and families in our community. Parents have resorted to shutting themselves in, resulting in students not attending school, parents feeling hesitant to seek help when they need it, and ultimately families feeling unsafe and extremely vulnerable.

The United States has long been a nation built by immigrants—people who came here seeking safety, opportunity, and a better life for themselves and their children. Yet, aggressive immigration enforcement practices, often rooted in racist and xenophobic ideologies, disproportionately target Black, Brown, and immigrant communities. These practices create fear and instability, weakening the social fabric that binds our communities together.

Maryland's immigrant residents are our neighbors, colleagues, and friends. They contribute to the state's economy, culture, and overall well-being. They deserve to live their lives—whether dropping their children off at school, attending a doctor's appointment, or simply going to work—without the constant fear of being targeted by immigration enforcement.

Passing SB 977 will send a clear message: Maryland is a state that protects its residents' privacy, upholds the rule of law, and ensures that all community members can live, learn, and thrive in safety. I urge you to vote **yes** on Senate Bill 977 and issue a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Patterson
poet83@gmail.com

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Nemphos

Position: FAV

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 40 and live in the Medfield neighborhood of Baltimore City. **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 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: 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 legitimate 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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 -- people that came to this country looking to improve their lives, people that contribute to the functioning of society and make positive contributions to our communities everyday -- 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,
Christina Bell
1301 W 42nd St, Baltimore, Md 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0977.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Pham Linhoff

Position: FAV

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**. **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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,
Christina Pham Linhoff
710 William Street, Baltimore, MD, 21230
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Lopez

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

I currently work as a primary care and hospital provider for many immigrant patients in Baltimore City. Issues that protect the personal data of my patients are core to my values as a physician and are crucial to the trust we build with some of our most vulnerable populations.

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.

Using data to enforce immigration policies will be a public health danger for our community. It will reduce the frequency of visits to the Emergency Department for life-saving needs, putting the children I care for at risk. The rhetoric around this data sharing has already made a negative impact on my patients. Parents are afraid to visit their children in the hospital. Families constantly confide in me regarding the anxiety they have sending their children to school or navigating their daily lives. Sharing personal data **WILL** harm our relationship with the community and put my patient's lives at risk.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I, once again, call on this legislature to act.¹

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977

**Christine Lopez, MD
Internal Medicine - Pediatrics Resident
Baltimore, Maryland**

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)

Lam Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Clarence Lam

Position: FAV

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 977

SENATE BILL 977

E4, P3, L6

5lr2318

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

5 FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law to require a law enforcement agency
6 or a unit of State or local government to deny access to certain databases, ~~facilities,~~
7 ~~or buildings~~ by certain individuals seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal
8 immigration law, under certain circumstances; requiring the Attorney General to
9 enforce certain provisions of this Act; providing that a State employee that violates
10 certain provisions of this Act is subject to certain discipline; and generally relating
11 to access to information held by law enforcement agencies and State and local
12 agencies.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article - General Provisions
15 Section 4-320(g)(2) and 4-320.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article - Public Safety
20 Section 3-529
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article - General Provisions**

26 4-320.

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 977

1 (g) (2) A person receiving personal information under subsection (d), (e), or (f)
2 of this section may not disclose the personal information to a federal agent or federal agency
3 for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement unless the person is presented with a
4 valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State.

5 4-320.1.

6 (a) In this section, "facial recognition" means a biometric software application
7 that identifies or verifies a person by comparing and analyzing patterns based on a person's
8 facial contours.

9 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, an officer, an
10 employee, an agent, or a contractor of the State or a political subdivision shall deny
11 inspection of the part of a public record that contains personal information or inspection of
12 a photograph of an individual by any federal agency seeking access for the purpose of
13 enforcing federal immigration law, unless the officer, employee, agent, or contractor is
14 provided with a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State.

15 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, an officer, an
16 employee, an agent, or a contractor of the State or a political subdivision shall deny
17 inspection using a facial recognition search of a digital photographic image or actual stored
18 data of a digital photographic image by any federal agency seeking access for the purpose
19 of enforcing federal immigration law, unless the officer, employee, agent, or contractor is
20 provided with a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State.

21 (3) On or before June 1, 2023, and each June 1 thereafter, the Motor
22 Vehicle Administration, the Department of State Police, and the Department of Public
23 Safety and Correctional Services shall, with respect to requests from federal agencies
24 seeking access for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement for personal information,
25 a photograph of an individual, or a facial recognition search, whether or not the request
26 was initiated through a State or local law enforcement agency, report to the General
27 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the following
28 information for the immediately preceding calendar year:

29 (i) the number of requests received from any federal agency for
30 personal information, a photograph of an individual, or a facial recognition search;

31 (ii) the number of requests received from any federal agency for
32 personal information, a photograph of an individual, or a facial recognition search for which
33 a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State was provided;

34 (iii) the number and purpose of facial recognition searches completed
35 for any federal agency based on personal information or a photograph of an individual
36 provided to the federal agency by the Motor Vehicle Administration, the Department of
37 State Police, or the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and

3

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1 (iv) the number of individuals whose personal information or
 2 photograph was provided to any federal agency by, respectively, the Motor Vehicle
 3 Administration, the Department of State Police, and the Department of Public Safety and
 4 Correctional Services.

5

Article - Public Safety

6 3-529.

7 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

8 (2) (i) "Database" means any database operated by:

9 1. State and local law enforcement agencies, including
 10 databases maintained for a law enforcement agency by a private vendor; **OR**

11 2. **A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT,**
 12 **INCLUDING DATABASES MAINTAINED FOR A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT BY A**
 13 **PRIVATE VENDOR.**

14 (ii) "Database" does not include a registry operated under Title 11,
 15 Subtitle 7 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

16 (3) (i) "Law enforcement agency" means a federal, state, or local agency
 17 authorized to enforce criminal laws.

18 (ii) "Law enforcement agency" includes the Maryland Department of
 19 Public Safety and Correctional Services.

20 ~~(4) "SENSITIVE INFORMATION" INCLUDES PERSONAL INFORMATION~~
 21 ~~ON INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SERVED OR ENGAGED BY A GRANTEE, CONTRACTOR, OR~~
 22 ~~CONSULTANT OF A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.~~

23 (b) [An entity] **A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A UNIT OF STATE OR**
 24 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** operating a database shall:

25 (1) deny access to the database to any individual who is **OR APPEARS TO**
 26 **BE** seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, unless the
 27 individual presents a valid warrant issued by a federal court or a court of this State **AND**
 28 **CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THE RECORD TO BE ACCESSED;** and

29 (2) require an individual accessing the database to provide to the [entity]
 30 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

31 (i) the individual's name;

4

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1 (ii) the individual's contact information, including a telephone
2 number, an e-mail address, and a physical address; and

3 (iii) unless the individual presents a valid warrant issued by a federal
4 court or a court of this State AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THE RECORD TO BE ACCESSED,
5 a statement by the individual, under penalty of perjury, that the individual is not accessing
6 the database for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law.

7 ~~(c) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL
8 GOVERNMENT OPERATING A BUILDING OR FACILITY SHALL:~~

9 ~~(1) DENY ACCESS TO THE BUILDING OR FACILITY TO ANY INDIVIDUAL
10 WHO IS OR APPEARS TO BE SEEKING ACCESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING
11 FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW, UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTS A VALID
12 WARRANT ISSUED BY A FEDERAL COURT OR A COURT OF THIS STATE AND CLEARLY
13 IDENTIFIES THE BUILDING OR FACILITY, OR RECORD OR INFORMATION WITHIN THE
14 BUILDING OR FACILITY, TO BE ACCESSED; AND~~

15 ~~(2) REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL ACCESSING THE BUILDING OR FACILITY
16 TO PROVIDE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL
17 GOVERNMENT:~~

18 ~~(I) THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME;~~

19 ~~(II) THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONTACT INFORMATION, INCLUDING A
20 TELEPHONE NUMBER, AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AND A PHYSICAL ADDRESS; AND~~

21 ~~(III) UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTS A VALID WARRANT
22 ISSUED BY A FEDERAL COURT OR A COURT OF THIS STATE AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIES
23 THE BUILDING OR FACILITY, OR RECORD OR INFORMATION WITHIN THE BUILDING
24 OR FACILITY, TO BE ACCESSED, A STATEMENT BY THE INDIVIDUAL, UNDER PENALTY
25 OF PERJURY, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT ACCESSING THE BUILDING, FACILITY,
26 RECORD, OR INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING FEDERAL
27 IMMIGRATION LAW.~~

28 ~~(D) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL
29 GOVERNMENT MAY NOT ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR
30 SIMILAR AGREEMENT THAT REQUIRES COLLABORATION OR INFORMATION SHARING
31 WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING FEDERAL
32 IMMIGRATION LAW.~~

33 ~~(e) (C) EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL:~~

5

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1 **(1) MAINTAIN A RECORD OF EACH REQUEST BY AN INDIVIDUAL**
2 **SEEKING ACCESS TO A DATABASE, ~~FACILITY, BUILDING,~~ RECORD, OR INFORMATION**
3 **AS DESCRIBED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

4 **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND EACH YEAR**
5 **THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND, IN**
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**
7 **ASSEMBLY ON:**

8 **(I) THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF ACCESS REQUESTS**
9 **RECEIVED;**

10 **(II) WHETHER THE REQUESTS WERE GRANTED OR DENIED; AND**

11 **(III) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO ENSURE**
12 **COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

13 ~~**(D)**~~ **THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL:**

14 **(1) ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION THROUGH ANY**
15 **MEANS NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL VIOLATIONS; AND**

16 **(2) ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF CIVIL PENALTIES NOT EXCEEDING**
17 **\$1,000 PER VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.**

18 ~~**(E)**~~ **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A STATE**
19 **EMPLOYEE WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE, INCLUDING**
20 **TERMINATION FROM EMPLOYMENT.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2025.

BTU Testimony Senate Bill 977.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Cristina E Duncan Evans

Position: FAV



AFT 340 AFL-CIO
Seton Business Park
5800 Metro Drive, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

**Senate Bill 977 – State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025**

FAVORABLE

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents over 9,000 employees of Baltimore City Public Schools, including teachers, paraprofessionals, school secretaries, counselors, librarians, clinicians, transportation aides, and school support staff. Our members are on the frontlines of public education everyday, and strive to educate, support and develop Baltimore City’s young people. The Baltimore Teachers Union is writing in strong support of SB 977 and we request that the committee issue a favorable report.

SB 977 would prevent federal immigration enforcement agencies from accessing personal information, data systems, and facilities in Maryland without a valid warrant. This legislation is critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of our immigrant students, families, and community members as they go about their daily lives.

In our schools, we see firsthand how fear of immigration enforcement affects children and their families. When families are afraid that a routine interaction with a school, hospital, or public institution might result in their information being shared with immigration authorities, it creates a climate of distrust and anxiety. Children cannot focus on learning if they are worried about coming home to find a parent missing. Parents hesitate to engage with schools or seek essential services, even when those services are critical to their children’s education and well-being.

Aggressive immigration enforcement—especially when conducted without proper judicial oversight—is fundamentally contrary to the history and values of our nation. The United States has long been heralded as a land of opportunity, built and strengthened by immigrants from all over the world. Yet, the enforcement tactics we see today are rooted in racist and xenophobic ideologies, disproportionately targeting Black and Brown immigrant communities. These tactics sow fear, division, and instability in communities that contribute to Maryland’s growth and prosperity.

Immigrant families in Maryland are our neighbors, our coworkers, and, for us, our students. Our students are future business owners, caregivers, educators, and community leaders who enrich the cultural and economic fabric of our state. Our students’ families deserve to go about their lives—whether dropping their children off at school, attending a parent-teacher conference, or seeking medical care—without fear of harassment or detention.

By passing SB 977, Maryland has the opportunity to take a firm stand in defense of the dignity and safety of immigrant communities. This legislation provides necessary protections while upholding the rule of law by ensuring that any enforcement action requires a valid, judicially approved warrant.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 977. In doing so, you will affirm Maryland's commitment to justice, fairness, and the principle that all residents deserve to live, work, and learn without fear.

Carrington 2025 Greenbelt Position Statement SB977

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor*

Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Amy Knesel

Danielle McKinney

Jenni Pompei

Silke I. Pope

Rodney M. Roberts

Position Statement – Support – SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

The City of Greenbelt strongly supports Senate Bill 977, which is essential in safeguarding the privacy and civil rights of Maryland residents. This bill addresses a critical concern by limiting the ability of state and local agencies to share personal information, photographs, and other sensitive data with federal agencies for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. Greenbelt recognizes the importance of preserving residents' privacy while also ensuring that local law enforcement can operate without fear of unintended consequences related to federal immigration actions.

In our commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all community members, Greenbelt has long recognized the need for protections against unwarranted federal surveillance. Senate Bill 977 is a significant step in ensuring that personal data held by state and local agencies cannot be used inappropriately by federal authorities unless they possess a valid court-issued warrant. This protection is especially vital in maintaining a sense of security among immigrant populations who may be hesitant to engage with local authorities or access services out of fear that their information could be shared with federal immigration enforcement.

Moreover, this bill reinforces the principle of local autonomy, allowing Greenbelt and other local governments to make decisions that best reflect the values and needs of our communities. Local agencies should not be compelled to participate in federal immigration enforcement unless there is a clear legal requirement to do so. By enacting Senate Bill 977, Maryland will ensure that local resources are not diverted from public safety efforts and instead remain focused on serving the needs of residents in a manner that fosters trust and collaboration.

Another key benefit of Senate Bill 977 is its capacity to build trust between local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Immigrant families are more likely to report crimes and engage with law enforcement if they feel their personal data will not be used against them for immigration purposes. Senate Bill 977 will create a safer and more inclusive environment in which all residents, regardless of immigration status, can feel secure in their interactions with local authorities.

Finally, the bill establishes a system of accountability by tracking requests for access to sensitive data and requiring reporting to the Attorney General. This oversight ensures transparency in the use of personal information and provides mechanisms for addressing any violations of the law. The inclusion of penalties for state employees who improperly share information further reinforces the integrity of the bill's protections and emphasizes the importance of adhering to its provisions.

In conclusion, the City of Greenbelt believes Senate Bill 977 is vital for ensuring the privacy, safety, and trust of our residents. By restricting the sharing of personal data between state and local agencies



A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Emmett V. Jordan, *Mayor*

Kristen L.K. Weaver, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Amy Knesel

Danielle McKinney

Jenni Pompei

Silke I. Pope

Rodney M. Roberts

and federal immigration authorities, this bill will help preserve the rights of all Maryland residents and strengthen community relationships with law enforcement. We urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 977, as it will make our state a safer, more inclusive place for all who call it home.

For questions or more information, please contact Josué Salmerón, City Manager, at jsalmeron@greenbeltd.gov.

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FAV

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 44A. **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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,
Daryl Yoder
309 Glenmore Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0977_DavidFriedman_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: David Friedman

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025
David M. Friedman
Silver Spring, MD 20905

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](#)

SB977 Favorable 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 977
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act, a Favorable report.

It is incredibly important for states to defend the rights of the people from a tyrannical government. The Trump/ Musk administration has proven that it doesn't respect the rights to freedom or privacy. The admittedly racist administration has likewise specifically targeted Brown people, even attempting to deport Indigenous people. They have decided to deny the right to counsel to those who they accuse of being in the United States unlawfully. And they have completely rejected the 14th amendment to the Constitution. The Trump/ Musk administration cannot be trusted to follow the rule of law in any manner.

Please help protect Maryland residents by giving Senate Bill 977 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

Maryland Data Privacy Act Testimony D Abramsky Feb

Uploaded by: Deborah Abramsky

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 19th

Deborah Abramsky, CNM, MPH
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
dabramsky1031@gmail.com

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

SB977 CentroSOL

Uploaded by: Ellen Molino

Position: FAV



Center for Salud/Health and Opportunity for Latinos
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Center for Child and Community Health Research
Mason F. Lord Bldg, Center Tower Suite 4200
5200 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21224
www.jhcentrosol.org | 410.550.1129 | centrosol@jhmi.edu

SB 977

Favorable

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Centro SOL

DATE: February 19, 2025

Centro SOL is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

Centro SOL (Center for Health and Opportunity for Latinos at Johns Hopkins) is committed to promoting equity in health and providing high quality care to all of our patients including the large and growing Latino population in the State of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1431. Note: This testimony does not necessarily represent the views of Johns Hopkins University.

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.

The current culture of fear and mistrust of government agencies undermines our ability to conduct important research within the Latino community in Baltimore. If the immigrant community does not feel comfortable participating in our studies and trust that their information will remain confidential, the validity and effectiveness of our research will suffer greatly. It is essential that our research continue within this underserved community so that we can continue to adequately address the stark health disparities that exist.

Centro SOL stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.



Center for Salud/Health and Opportunity for Latinos
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Center for Child and Community Health Research
Mason F. Lord Bldg, Center Tower Suite 4200
5200 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21224
www.jhcentrosol.org | 410.550.1129 | centrosol@jhmi.edu

3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **Centro SOL** once again calls on this legislature to act.

Centro SOL urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

Signatures:

Monica Guerrero Vazquez, MS, MPH
Executive Director, Centro SOL

Sarah Polk, MD, ScM
Co-Director, Centro SOL
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins
University School of Medicine

Rheanna Platt MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Johns
Hopkins University/Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Rachel Aylor
Executive Director, National Alliance for Hispanic Families

C. Nicholas Cuneo, MD, MPH
Medical Director, HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative

Ellen Molino, MBA
Research Program Manager, Centro SOL

Mauricio Torres-Martinez, MD

SB977_ MD Data Privacy Act_FAV_PFM.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

Patapsco Friends Meeting (Quakers)
SUPPORT: [SB977](#) ([HB1431](#)) *Maryland Data Privacy Act*
February 16, 2025

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is a community of faith based on an experience of a transforming power named many ways: the Inner Light, the Spirit of Christ, the Guide, the Living God, the Divine Presence. Quakers (or Friends) hold as the basis of this faith the belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. The gift of God's presence and the light of God's truth have been available to all people in all ages. Quaker beliefs are based on a Judeo-Christian heritage and adherence to the Inner Light, the Divine Seed, and that of God in everyone. Quakerism is, essentially, a religious fellowship based on common religious ideals and experiences, and it is without a binding creed. Quakers express this way of life in many ways, some traditional and some which reject traditional expression.

Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. "Testimonies" are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. As Friends seek truth, peace, and harmony in the Light of that Spirit, our testimonies emerge. Each person must prayerfully seek individual guidance and must follow the Light found within.

The immanence of God implies that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. Each one has the capacity to discern spiritual truth and to hold direct communion with God. We also wish to affirm our belief that Quakerism is God's "big tent," politically. We welcome people with all sorts of political beliefs—Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals, socialists, Libertarians, and Independents—to the Religious Society of Friends.

George Fox, a founding Quaker, encouraged Friends: "Let your lives speak." In every generation Quakers have devoted their lives to important social issues. The immigration enforcement crises that we are facing today challenge Friends as individuals and as communities to take decisive actions to protect f/Friends, Quakers and non-Quakers, immigrants and vulnerable people, no exceptions. Friends realize that they can do only a small part of what is needed, so they are working through individuals and other organizations to continue to put into action the testimonies of truth, integrity, equality, peace, community, and simplicity. These beliefs lead us to the importance of state-level advocacy in Maryland to support passing the Maryland Data Privacy Act, and other immigrant protections, during the 2025 General Assembly.

Immigrant families should be able to access critical government services without worrying that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. This bill blocks U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from obtaining warrantless access to state and local agency databases. It alters certain provisions of law to require a law enforcement agency, State or local government to deny access to certain databases, facilities, or buildings by certain individuals seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, under certain circumstances.

In 1682, Friend William Penn said, "True godliness doesn't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it...." The spiritual and social testimonies of Quakers, and statements of our Friends, lead us to support this proposed emergency legislation to protect our immigrant friends, our brothers and sisters in God's big tent.

Your Friends,
Eileen and Richard Stanzione, Co-Clerks
Patapsco Friends Meeting

SB977_MD Data Privacy Act_FAV_QV.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

Bill Title: State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law –
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act) - SB 977 (HB1431)
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Date: February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their concern for immigrant protections. QVM sees SB977 as an urgent priority in response to increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement policies and state and local data vulnerabilities.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for SB977.**

The 2021 Driver Privacy Act was a vital step, blocking U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from warrantless access to Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) data, but other state agencies still hold sensitive information that ICE could seize. SB977 stops ICE from accessing state and local databases, records, or information without a valid warrant, ensuring that state data is not misused. The bill also requires state agencies to document all ICE access requests and report to the General Assembly and Attorney General, improving transparency and ensuring compliance with the law.

Maryland must act decisively to protect its residents’ privacy. Trust in government has eroded under aggressive federal enforcement policies. This bill reassures Marylanders that state agencies prioritize their safety and privacy. Without these additional protections, state-held personal data could inadvertently become available to ICE, breaking public trust, and placing our community at risk. Residents who are immigrants should be able to access critical government services without worrying that they will be discriminated against and that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. No one should be *afraid* to go to school, seek medical attention, or ask for assistance to feed their family.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. We request a FAVORABLE report for this important and emergency legislation.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

Organization email: quakervoicemd@gmail.com

SB 977 - Data Privacy - ACLU Testimony (Feb 19, 20

Uploaded by: Frank Patinella

Position: FAV



Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB 977 State and Local Agencies Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law – Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

FAVORABLE

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
OF MARYLAND

3600 CLIPPER MILL ROAD
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BALTIMORE, MD 21211
T/410-889-8555
F/410-366-7838

WWW.ACLU-MD.ORG

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
COREY STOTTLEMYER
PRESIDENT

DANA VICKERS SHELLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 977, which seeks to prevent state or local law enforcement from sharing private information about Marylanders who are immigrants without a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court. It is important that the bill would apply to state contractors and grantees to the same extent as it applies to state and local agencies.

The harms of widespread immigration enforcement and mass deportation are well documented and include disrupting communities, ripping families apart, and causing widespread panic and fear. In fact, a 2022 report on 287(g) programs found that instead of increasing safety, local law enforcement colluding with ICE to enforce immigration law actually did the reverse, having a negative impact on public safety and public health. Dragnet enforcement and local involvement creates an atmosphere where immigrant residents are less likely to report crimes or serve as witnesses, making everyone less safe. Maryland should not be expending our limited resources and capacity to be involved in these enforcement actions and instead focus on tactics that are shown to improve communities and public safety.

Maryland has long recognized the importance of creating a welcoming community and supporting immigrant families and individuals in our community. In 2013, the state extended driving privileges to all Marylanders regardless of immigration status. In this national moment, when federal actors move to terrorize communities and unregulated agencies access sensitive data with complete disregard for privacy rights, it is our duty to protect the sensitive data being collected and maintained by the state.

Not only should Marylanders be able to control who has access to their data, but the threat of widespread dragnet immigration sweeps and the rhetoric around mass deportation at the national level compels us to call

on local law enforcement to stop sharing personal information of residents with ICE. The ACLU-MD stands on our commitment to immigrants' rights and privacy rights. It is time to retake control of our data and ensure that Maryland communities do not collaborate with ICE.

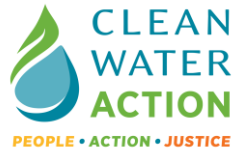
For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on SB 977.

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION OF
MARYLAND

Testimony in Support of SB 977.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Sanchez

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are submitting this testimony on behalf of Maryland Clean Water Action and Marylanders for Food and Farmworker Protection Coalition in strong support of the Maryland Data Privacy Act. This piece of legislation will significantly strengthen privacy protections for all Maryland residents by ensuring that law enforcement agencies and state or local government entities do not grant access to sensitive personal data for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. ICE has engaged in troubling practices of mass surveillance for the purpose of identify residents, undocumented or otherwise and Maryland must act to safeguard the privacy and safety of our communities.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act is a necessary protection against the growing threats posed by federal overreach in immigration enforcement. ICE has repeatedly used state and local government databases—including motor vehicle records, health data, and court documents—to target, detain, and deport immigrants. This access has disproportionately harmed undocumented residents, but it also puts all Marylanders at risk of data breaches, privacy violations, and civil rights abuses. By limiting the ability of law enforcement agencies and government offices to share data with ICE, this bill ensures that Maryland does not participate in these harmful and far-reaching practices.

Protecting the privacy of our residents, regardless of immigration status, is not just a moral imperative—it is a matter of public safety. When immigrant communities fear that their data may be used against them, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate with law enforcement, or seek necessary medical and social services. This undermines public safety and trust in government institutions. As a coalition that advocates for the rights of food system workers, we are especially concerned that lack of privacy protections will deter workers from filing complaints with the Maryland Department of Labor when their

workplace rights are violated, allowing violations to go unchecked. By enacting the Maryland Data Privacy Act, we reinforce our commitment to protecting the civil liberties of all who call Maryland home.

A specific example to highlight why the Maryland Data Privacy Act is necessary is the state's experience through the COVID-19 pandemic. During a public health emergency, like the pandemic or as we respond to the bird flu, it is critical that people are not fearful of seeking health services, whether it be vaccines or testing. The Maryland Data Privacy Act helps assure people as they interact with the government for important public health measures.

Furthermore, this bill holds state employees accountable for any violations, ensuring that privacy protections are upheld and enforced. It also empowers the Attorney General to take action against entities that fail to comply, demonstrating Maryland's commitment to strong privacy laws and ethical governance.

In recent years, we have seen states across the country take action to limit the ways in which federal agencies exploit local resources to enforce immigration laws. Maryland must join this effort by ensuring that our state does not facilitate the indiscriminate surveillance and targeting of our residents. The Maryland Data Privacy Act strengthens our state's privacy protections, upholds public trust, and ensures that Maryland remains a place where all people—regardless of immigration status—are treated with dignity and respect.

We urge you to support the passage of this bill and take a firm stand against ICE's overreach into our state's data systems. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977.pdf

Uploaded by: Gwen Stewart

Position: FAV

Please make a COPY



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Do The Most Good is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of **SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**.

Do the Most Good is a grassroots organization based in Montgomery County, MD with members across Montgomery County. My name is Gwen Stewart and I have been an active member on the **DTMG** steering committee since 2017. We partner with organizations in political action and civic engagement to further inclusive, progressive values and act with respect and kindness as an all-embracing community, while standing up to hatred and bigotry in every form. We act locally to make our community a more inclusive, safer place and support others dedicated to these goals.

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. We have moved beyond the *Fugitive Slave Law of 1850* and we must not return to such monstrous times. This bill protects our community from racism and discrimination. **Do The Most Good** values a community that embraces all its residents. A culture of distrust has a negative impact on all residents and must not be allowed to be promoted.

Do The Most Good stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Please make a COPY

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **Do The Most Good** once again calls on this legislature to act.¹

Do The Most Good urges the committee to provide a favorable report on **SB 977**

SB-0977 Maryland Data Privacy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

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**. **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 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: 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 authorized 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

Holly Powell

2308 Cambridge Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Data Privacy 17FEB 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jan Kleinman

Position: FAV

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
250 President ST Unit 508
Baltimore, MD 21202
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977_Jeffrey Rubin_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Rubin

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025

Jeffrey S. Rubin
Potomac, MD 20854

TESTIMONY ON SB977 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

TO: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Jeffrey S. Rubin

My name is Jeffrey S. Rubin. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

Like many Marylanders, I live in an area that is home to many immigrants. They make valuable contributions to our community. Unfortunately, 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.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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. As you did in 2021, I call on this legislature to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB977.

CAN Testimony in support of SB0977 (Maryland Data

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV



faith. love. liberation.
fe. amor. Liberación.

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 977

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

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: February 17, 2025

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB977 will provide data privacy protections to all Maryland residents for data held by government agencies, equivalent to that already provided for Motor Vehicle Administration data. SB977 would not interfere with truly criminal investigations, allowing for disclosure when a valid judicial warrant is presented. Immigrant families should be able to access all government services without worrying that their information will be freely shared with federal immigration authorities.

We respectfully urge you to reach a **favorable** report for SB977. It will provide privacy protections to all residents of Maryland. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson

Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator

Congregation Action Network

Silver Spring, MD

SB 977_Jo Shifrin_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jo Shifrin

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2025

Jo Shifrin

Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY ON SB 977 - 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: Jo Shifrin

OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

My family came from Russia, Ukraine, and Poland about 100 years ago. As Jews, they suffered from all forms of oppression and discrimination. One reason they were happy coming to the U.S. is that we have a Constitution that protects all of our residents.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within the immigrant community. This has led to an erosion of trust in all levels of government, Federal, State and local. With the recent election of Donald Trump, and threats of mass deportation, immigrants are worried that their personal data could be used by ICE to identify them and put them in harm's way.

Although the 4th Amendment to the Constitution protects people who reside in the US from illegal search and seizure, and the courts –including the Supreme Court– have held that access to private data (including electronic data) is prohibited without a warrant, immigrants have a right to be fearful. In the first 3 weeks of the Trump Administration, the executive branch of the Federal government has repeatedly overstepped its powers.

SB 977 will stop ICE from accessing state databases, records, or information without a valid warrant. It will also require that state agencies document all ICE access requests and report this to the State's Attorney General and the General Assembly. These steps will ensure that state data is not misused, and that there is transparency and accountability in compliance with law.

It is my hope that passage of this bill will protect Marylanders' privacy by shielding sensitive data from unwarranted federal surveillance and misuse, and build trust between immigrant communities and the agencies that serve them. **I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on SB 977.**

Health Care for the Homeless - SB 977 FAV - Data P

Uploaded by: Joanna Diamond

Position: FAV



HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTIMONY

FAVORABLE

SB 977 – State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Health Care for the Homeless supports SB 977, which seeks to require a law enforcement agency or a unit of State or local government to deny access to certain databases, facilities, or buildings by certain individuals seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law.

Health Care for the Homeless is a federally qualified health center, providing comprehensive health care and housing services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability in the Baltimore area. We provide services to everyone, regardless of immigration status, and we do not collect immigration status information, both as a matter of law and as a matter of values. We know, anecdotally, that our clients have a whole range of immigration statuses. We also know that many clients we serve also rely on critical public benefits and social safety programs for their health and safety. The efficacy of services that Health Care for the Homeless provides will be compromised if access to these other services clients rely on is compromised. Allowing access to clients' sensitive information will undoubtedly compromise those services because it will have a significant chilling effect because of the fear of deportation and other immigration proceedings. This chilling effect will go far beyond the public services that people receive at the locations and entities contemplated by this bill – it will also have a chilling effect at the other places they receive services, including Health Care for the Homeless. This will have a significant impact on the health and well-being of full communities who forgo these critical services due to understandable fear for what will happen to them and their families.

Immigrant families should be able to access critical government services without worrying that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. We need this bill so that immigration enforcement is limited from obtaining warrantless access to state and local agency databases.

We urge a favorable report.

Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We deliver medical care, mental health services, state-certified addiction treatment, dental care, social services, housing support services, and housing for over 11,000 Marylanders annually at sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Our Vision: Everyone is healthy and has a safe home in a just and respectful community.

Our Mission: We work to end homelessness through racially equitable health care, housing and advocacy in partnership with those of us who have experienced it.

For more information, visit www.hchmd.org.

SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of

Uploaded by: Joanne Antoine

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025

Testimony on SB 977
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to
Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 977, which would establish protections for sensitive information as Marylanders, specifically members of immigrant communities, access critical government services. This legislation blocks the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from obtaining warrantless access to state and local agency databases during a time when the Trump administration is leading a mass deportation campaign meant to break up families, violate people's civil rights, and terrorize entire communities out of taking part in civic life.

Common Cause Maryland believes that immigrants are integral to this nation's foundation and success, contributing to its standing as the longest-lasting and most successful democracy in history. Yet, by forcing immigrants into the shadows, the Trump administration threatens to undermine the multiracial democracy and safe, thriving neighborhoods we all deserve. Disclosure of these individuals' personal information only helps the Administration accomplish its goals in Maryland.

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 and law enforcement entities are prohibited from sharing personal information, facial recognition data, and access to public facilities with federal immigration authorities without a valid warrant. Common Cause Maryland stands with immigrant communities and supports SB 977 because it will:

- **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
- **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
- **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
- **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

These protections will help to limit potential raids that will silence voices not only at the ballot box but also in our own neighborhoods, which hurts all Marylanders. We all lose when members of our communities are too afraid to engage with the government, hold elected officials accountable, and access the services they need.

This legislation is crucial not only for protecting the privacy of all residents but also for fostering trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. Immigrants have made this country the oldest and most successful democracy, and we should ensure that this continues by clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state.

We urge a favorable report on SB 977.



SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act - support - jfo

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

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

This testimony is being submitted with guidance from 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. I am also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident and homeowner of District 46, a board member of my community association, and a workforce development professional who cares deeply about the community I have become a part of over the last decade. 21224, my zip code, is one of the largest destinations for immigrants and for unaccompanied minors, and has a lively immigrant community that contributes greatly to our culture and local economy. **I am testifying in support of SB0977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**

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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

John Preston Ford

529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

PGCMA Favorable SUPPORT Senate Bill 977.pdf

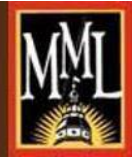
Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FAV



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



Testimony Favorable SUPPORT Senate Bill 977

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and member of the Committee,

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes on behalf of the 27 municipalities that collectively represent more than 955,000 residents, to share our strong support for Senate Bil 977 **State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within our communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act SB977 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, access to public facilities with federal immigration authorities unless a valid warrant is presented.

Prince George's Municipal Association (PGCMA) stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. PGCMA once again calls on this legislature to act ([2021, MGA HB23](#)). **Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) urges the committee to provide a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 977**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celina R. Benitez".

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, President, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) members: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, District Heights, Eagle Harbor, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Laurel, Morningside, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park, and Upper Marlboro.

CASA_FAV_SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Jonathan Reidel

Position: FAV



CASA Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 977

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

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

CASA strongly supports Senate Bill 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act. CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model, blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing and by ensuring that families can access essential public benefits that provide basic necessities.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act is a critical safeguard that builds on the progress made with the Driver Privacy Act of 2021 and addresses the gaps that still leave Marylanders vulnerable to warrantless surveillance and data exploitation. It is essential that Maryland fully closes the loopholes that have enabled federal immigration enforcement to misuse state-collected data, undermining public trust and exposing our communities to harm.

For years, Maryland has worked to ensure that all residents—regardless of immigration status—can safely engage with government services. However, ICE’s warrantless access to state agency data has eroded public trust, making entire communities, including U.S. citizens, DACA recipients, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), and asylum seekers, fearful of engaging with essential services. The chilling effect of ICE’s data exploitation means that many families feel forced to live in the shadows, afraid to seek healthcare, enroll their children in school, or even report crimes to local law enforcement. This bill is critical to rebuilding that trust by ensuring that Maryland does not participate in the unjust targeting of its residents.

SB977 Builds on the Driver Privacy Act of 2021

In 2021, this legislature took a bold and necessary step by passing the Driver Privacy Act, which

restricted ICE's ability to access Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) data without a warrant. That law was a direct response to reports of ICE agents misusing MVA records to target, detain, and deport Marylanders—many of whom had obtained driver's licenses in good faith, trusting the state's promise of safety and privacy under the Maryland Highway Safety Act of 2013. ICE targeted several CASA members through its use of the MVA database.

That bill successfully set a precedent by limiting ICE's ability to exploit Maryland's systems, but it did not go far enough. ICE and other federal immigration enforcement agencies continue to bypass these protections by purchasing personal data from third-party brokers and exploiting loopholes in data-sharing agreements with state agencies.

ICE's Data Exploitation Erodes Public Trust in Government Services

When Maryland residents interact with state agencies—whether to file taxes, seek medical care, report crimes, or access education and labor protections—they should not have to fear that their personal information will be misused by federal immigration authorities. **Allowing ICE unrestricted access to state-collected data undermines public trust and has a chilling effect on our entire community, discouraging people from engaging with critical government services that benefit all Marylanders.**

For example, immigrant families—including U.S. citizen children—may avoid Medicaid or public health services out of fear that their personal information will be used against them. This leads to lower vaccination rates, more untreated illnesses, and increased strain on emergency rooms. Similarly, workers fear reporting labor violations or unsafe conditions, emboldening bad actors who exploit immigrants for cheap labor, which drives down wages and protections for all workers. Even public safety is undermined when immigrants hesitate to call 911, report crimes, or cooperate with law enforcement, making our communities less safe for everyone. We see this in practice every day through the various CASA services we provide to immigrant families across Maryland.

The harm does not just fall on undocumented Marylanders—it extends to U.S. citizens, DACA recipients, TPS holders, lawful permanent residents, and mixed-status families who fear that any interaction with state agencies could put a loved one at risk. This fear-based deterrence has widespread economic and social consequences, pushing families deeper into poverty, worsening health disparities, and eroding trust in government institutions.

SB977 Builds Public Trust

Senate Bill 977 ensures that all Marylanders—regardless of immigration status—can safely

engage with government services without fear of warrantless surveillance. Specifically, this bill:

- Stops ICE from accessing Marylanders' data without a valid warrant, ensuring due process protections are upheld.
- Prohibits the sale of personal data to third-party brokers, closing a loophole that federal agencies have exploited to circumvent constitutional safeguards.
- Mandates transparency and oversight, requiring state agencies to report how often federal immigration authorities request personal data and how many individuals are affected.

To be clear, SB 977 does *not* prevent law enforcement from investigating crimes, sharing data when legally required, or complying with federal mandates. The bill simply ensures that federal agencies follow the same due process requirements that apply to any other law enforcement action. This is about fairness, constitutional rights, and protecting Marylanders from government overreach.

Maryland has already taken steps to protect its residents from warrantless federal surveillance, but loopholes remain that leave thousands of Maryland families vulnerable. The Driver Privacy Act of 2021 was a crucial first step, but the job is not finished. ICE and other federal agencies continue to exploit weak data privacy protections to target Marylanders without judicial oversight.

For all the reasons listed above, CASA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 977.

Contact: Cathryn Paul, cpaul@wearecasa.org, 301-807-0788

Testimony for SB 977 protection of Privacy .pdf

Uploaded by: Judith Walsh-Mellett

Position: FAV

Prince George's County Cluster of the Congregation Action Network (CAN)

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of
the Committee,

The PG CAN cluster is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

The PG CAN cluster is a grassroots organization of over 60 county residents, members of faith communities and community activists who support our immigrant neighbors in various ways. 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.

The PG CAN cluster stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **PG CAN,** once again calls on this legislature to act.¹

PG, CAN urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)

SB 977_MD Center on Economic Policy_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kali Schumitz

Position: FAV

Maryland Should Ensure that Immigrants' Data is Secure and Privacy is Guaranteed

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 977

Given before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Like all Marylanders, immigrants should feel confident in the privacy and security of the data they share with state and local agencies. They must be assured that unless there is a valid court-issued warrant, their data cannot be shared by law enforcement agencies or state and local government for the purposes of immigration enforcement. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports SB 977 because it will ensure that immigrants data, like that of all Marylanders, is secured and help guarantee their privacy.**

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.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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.

Further, a;; Marylanders benefit from state policies that make our state a welcoming place for immigrants. Just over 1 million immigrants reside in Maryland, working sectors across our state's economy. About 36 percent of Main Street business owners in Maryland are immigrants, operating storefront shops that help keep downtown areas vibrant. About 21 percent of Maryland's workers are immigrants including 33 percent of child care workers, 29 percent of registered nurses and 27 percent of software developers.

Immigrant workers and business owners generate \$85 billion of economic output in Maryland. In fact, when immigrants move to Maryland the economy grows and this doesn't mean fewer jobs, it means more jobs, more consumers, more workers and more business owners.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy**, once again calls on the General Assembly to act to protect the private data of all Marylanders.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy urges **the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977**.

SB977 D4CC fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Doctors for Camp Closure, Maryland chapter is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

Doctors for Camp Closure is a national organization. Our Maryland chapter is our local chapter. Our mission is to advocate for justice and humane treatment of immigrants. As doctors we know that there is no amount of time in an ICE jail which is healthy for our patients. We know that healthy families are families that can remain together. We know how critical it is for our families that family members not be deported.

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 /HB 1431 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.

Our immigrant patients must have their privacy protected. This legislation is critical for our patients' welfare.

If our patients' privacy is not protected then they are at a much higher risk of deportation. There is nothing that is worse for our patients' health than the fear of and then actual deportation. Once a family member is deported, the family members suffer physically and psychologically. Children lose their ability to thrive and function in school. They regress emotionally which then takes a physical toll on their bodies. Families lose a wage earner so they suffer economically.

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland chapter stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. Doctor for Camp Closure Maryland chapter once again calls on this legislature to act.

Doctors for Camp Closure, Maryland chapter urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

Kate Sugarman, MD
Maryland co-director Doctor for Camp Closure
11909 Enid Drive
Potomac MD 20854

Testimony in Support of SB0977_Blaha_SURJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Monday, February 17, 2025



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in 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, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization based in Maryland. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying in **support of SB0977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**

President Trump's cruel, racist, and xenophobic attacks on immigrants has continued in his second administration. It is incumbent upon Maryland to protect the people that he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, family members, and neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities. They don't deserve to live in fear.

In Maryland and nationwide, federal immigration authorities have a history of abusing state-held databases containing personal information in order to help them target immigrants. In Maryland, after Maryland allowed undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses in 2013, ICE began using MVA data in this way. This is a vicious and counterproductive attempt to force immigrants to live in the shadows when they would otherwise readily adhere to local laws and regulations that keep everyone safe.

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 terrorize, imprison, and deport 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 *real* 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities unless they have a *real* warrant signed by a judge. While this does not provide complete protection to people attempting to abide by local laws and retain access to crucial resources and services, it at least makes it more difficult for ICE to target local and state government facilities for raids/general enforcement actions.

I do not want Maryland to use our resources to help President Trump conduct his racist, cruel anti-immigrant campaign. We must stand up for our friends, family, and neighbors by refusing to be complicit in his xenophobia. 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,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
5706 Cross Country Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

Copy of SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Grasso

Position: FAV

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

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 43A. As a special education teacher working in Baltimore City public schools, I have seen first hand the negative impacts that fears about data privacy are having on schools, communities, and immigrant families and children in Maryland. For that reason, **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, people who help build our communities 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

Katherine Grasso
2507 N Howard St, Apt 415
Baltimore, MD 21218
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0977_FAV_Maryland Just Power Alliance.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Wenger

Position: FAV



Support the Maryland Data Privacy Act (SB0977)

Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

We are the [Maryland Just Power Alliance](#), a coalition of 3 non-partisan community power organizations: [Action in Montgomery \(AIM\)](#), [Anne Arundel Connecting Together \(ACT\)](#), and [People Acting Together in Howard \(PATH\)](#), representing tens of thousands of Maryland residents. We organize with people in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods to build power for policies that make our communities more fair and livable for everyone. We are asking you to support the Maryland Data Privacy Act (SB0977) when it is considered by the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act is crucial to protect residents' trust in government so they can access much-needed services. It is essential that this bill prevents ICE from warrantless access to people's sensitive data in state and local agency databases. Residents need to be able to access crucial resources like healthcare without the fear that their information will be shared with federal immigration enforcement. We call on you to pass this bill out of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

2025 - SB 0977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0977:

State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information

(Maryland Data Privacy Act)

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Sen. William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rev. Kenneth O. Phelps, Jr., Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 19, 2025

As Christians, our faith is shaped by the biblical story of people whom God led into foreign countries to escape oppression. Exodus tells us the story of the ancient Israelites escaping slavery in the land of Egypt and wandering in the wilderness without a home. In Leviticus, God commands that we remember this sojourn as part of our own story of faith: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

Paul tells us in Ephesians, we are no longer aliens. Christ Jesus has made us citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. As we read in 1 Peter, we have received God’s mercy, and we must demonstrate this sacrificial love in our lives and deeds. We are called to transcend the earthly distinctions made among us by the leaders of this world. We must proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is promised to the persecuted and answer Christ’s call to welcome the stranger among us.

This vision of God’s kingdom, this new reality, is the one to which we Christians are pledged in our baptism above any political preference or policy, and to which our church must bear witness through word and deed. This sacred call shapes both our churchwide commitment to stand with migrants and the ministries of congregations across our church who serve vulnerable immigrants and refugees in their communities.

Since the late 19th century, The Episcopal Church has followed this call by welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States. Across our church, migrants



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

are members of the Body of Christ and part of our congregations and communities, and our common life is richer thanks to their contributions.

But, in recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within those very 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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland once again calls on this legislature to act.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

SB0977.favorable.LauraAtwood.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Atwood

Position: FAV

Feb 19, 2025

Laura Atwood
Silver Spring, MD 20910
laura.atwood.home@gmail.com

TESTIMONY ON SB0977/HB1431 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

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

My name is Laura Atwood. I am a resident of District 20, and I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0977/HB1431, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.

At the federal level, these are serious times. I hope that we have all studied history and contemporary society enough to recognize the scapegoating of entire communities—and that we also recognize the almost unthinkable cruelty that individuals and governments are capable of.

Maryland needs to join other states, with full courage and resoluteness, in truly supporting its residents by resisting the federal government's immigration devastation. This includes supporting the Data Privacy Act, which would limit federal access to state and local databases that contain sensitive personal information.

I support this and other immigration bills because of my belief in the deep inherent worth of every individual, and in the inherent interconnectedness of all of us. More specifically, I am a physical therapist, a parent of young adult children, and a community member who has lived internationally and has long been involved with people who've immigrated to this country under a variety of circumstances. People who have immigrated enrich my personal life (I've been married to one for 28 years!), my workplace and social circles, and my local community.

Every individual who is detained and/or deported is a human being with dignity, deserving of compassion and of justice under constitutional, international, and moral law. And every individual who is detained and/or deported is part of a larger community—often including children and vulnerable adults.

How many of you have children, or (!) have been children? What is the lifelong impact of losing a parent at a young age, or at any age?

Recently while my mind was spinning with immigration-related news, I stopped off at my local pupusería because I'd heard that many local restaurants are struggling, plus their pupusas are delicious. A few families were there just enjoying life, as things should be. The father of one clearly tired toddler was trying to leave the table to go to the bathroom. The kid was crying, not wanting the father to go; he scooped her up and hugged and danced with her, turned the now-calm kid over to the mother, and left for the bathroom. All an everyday event. But my spinning mind went to the thought: What if in a different situation, his kid was crying and he was unable to return?

How much lifelong trauma are we as a society inflicting—by letting ICE create so much loss, and also realistic fear of this loss?? And how could we not do everything in our power to prevent this?

The Data Privacy Act would make it harder for ICE and other federal agencies to find and misuse personal data to carry out a destructive and hateful agenda. **I therefore respectfully urge this committee to return a (favorable/favorable with amendments/unfavorable) report on SB0977/HB143.** Thank you.

CAB SB977 FAV MGA25.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony
SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)
February 19, 2025
SUPPORT

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Chair; The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair; and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Dr. Jeffery Johnson, Chair, Montgomery County Community Action Board

The Montgomery County Community Action Board, the County's local, state, and federally designated anti-poverty group, strongly supports SB977, which would deny access to databases maintained by law enforcement and other state and local entities, along with their physical buildings, if they appear to be accessing the databases for immigration enforcement purposes, unless they have a warrant. Individuals accessing these buildings would need to share their name, contact information, and if the individual does not have a warrant, they would also need to provide a statement indicating that they are not entering the building for immigration enforcement purposes. SB977 prohibits law enforcement and local and state entities from entering into MOUs or similar agreements to collaborate with federal immigration enforcement.

As the governing body for the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, we continue to hear about the terrible local impacts of immigration policies and proposals established at the federal level. Many of the residents served by the Takoma-East Silver Spring (TESS) Community Action Center, Navigation Team, and the agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program are living in fear. Too many of our neighbors are terrified to seek services they desperately need because of concerns about their immigration status. In a recent SNAP clinic for example, every resident in attendance expressed concerns about what would happen to their information. We've also heard from partner organizations that are receiving a record number of requests for "Know Your Rights" trainings. Food distribution programs have seen their numbers drop and some have even moved food distribution events inside so that participants feel safer picking up groceries. Policies, including the ones proposed in SB977, can help to alleviate some of the fears people are facing and increase confidence in government entities. The alternative is that people could go without food assistance, housing support, child care assistance, and other services they desperately need.

In these uncertain times, our board appreciates the General Assembly's efforts to explore state-level policies that can offer added safety and a better sense of security for our neighbors. The Community Action Board stands ready to support legislation that will help some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Montgomery County Community Action Board strongly supports SB977 and asks for the Committee's favorable report.

eactestimony2025.SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FAV

Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 977: State and Local Agencies—Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law— Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2025

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, strongly supports Senate Bill 977, which would restrict any individual who is, or who appears to be, seeking access to a database or to a building or facility for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law unless the individual presents a valid warrant issued by a federal or Maryland state court and clearly identifies the building or facility or record or information to be accessed within the building or facility. As attorneys, advocates and consultants working with families whose children have disabilities, EAC members are greatly concerned about the risk to children with disabilities if sensitive information about them is released to immigration officials. Although the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the release of information by schools, FERPA does permit schools to release directory information; directory information includes such details as a student's name and address and date and place of birth. By restricting access to information without presentation of a court order, Senate Bill 977 closes a hole that could otherwise be devastating to children and their families who are worried about being identified to immigration officers seeking to detain and deport them.

Additionally, children with disabilities, like all children, have a right under *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982) to attend school without regard to their immigration status. It is especially important for children with disabilities to have unthreatened access to school in order to obtain their legally-guaranteed special education and related services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act. Senate Bill 977 would enable schools to keep students as safe as possible and make it possible for parents to continue to participate in meetings and school events.

For these reasons, the EAC strongly supports Senate Bill 977.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis, lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: Senate Bill 977
February 19, 2025
Page Two

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC
Rene Averitt-Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland
Beth Benevides, The Autism Society of Maryland
Ellen A. Callegary, Attorney (Retired)
Stephanie Carr, S.L. Carr Education Consultants, LLC
Rich Ceruolo, Parent
Lisa Frank and Andrea Bennett, Special Kids Company
Riya Gupta, Strong Schools Maryland
Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC
Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate
Morgan Durand Horvath, M.Ed., Abilities Network
Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldán, Bright Futures, LLC
Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland
Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland, Co-Chairperson, Education Advocacy Coalition
Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy
Beth Nolan, MAT, Education Team Allies
Sumaiya Olatunde, H2D Counseling
Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center
Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland/Maryland Parents of Blind
Children
Kate Raab and Nicole Joseph, Law Office of Nicole Joseph
Jaime Seaton, BGS Law, LLC
Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland
Ronnetta Stanley, M.Ed., Loud Voices Together
Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group
Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint
Maureen van Stone, Kendall Eaton, Genevieve Hornik, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger
Institute
Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

The Maryland Education Coalition also joins this testimony.

SB977_LindaBergofsky_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Bergofsky

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 19, 1:00 PM
Linda Rae Bergofsky
Poolesville, MD 20837

TESTIMONY ON SB 977- 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: Linda Bergofsky

I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

By way of background, I am a member of Oseh Shalom synagogue in Laurel, MD and serve as the chair of its Social Justice committee. I am also a substitute teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools and an ally of CASA, through which I advocate for protecting the rights and privacy of my immigrant neighbors. I'm writing to urge you to support SB 977 and extend the protections afforded by the 2021 Driver Privacy Act. Without additional protections, state-held personal data could inadvertently become available to ICE, thus, breaking public trust, and placing our communities at risk.

The Trump Administration has declared an immoral and illegal war on immigrants, and in doing so has effectively declared war on all of us. Although ICE is currently blocked from warrantless access to MVA data, gaps remain as long as other State agencies with sensitive information can be exploited. This bill ensures that no State agency data can be weaponized against immigrant communities. It would stop ICE from accessing state databases, records, or information without a valid warrant and requires State agencies to document all ICE access requests and report them to the General Assembly and Attorney General. This creates transparency and ensures compliance with the law.

As evidenced by DOGE's assault on Federal databases, Trump's obsession with obtaining information about immigrants is a Trojan horse. We must ensure that all Marylanders' sensitive data is shielded from unwarranted federal surveillance and misuse. Maryland faces a critical choice: uphold the privacy and trust of its residents or risk complicity in aggressive Federal enforcement. This bill ensures that state agencies are a shield, not a conduit, for unwarranted Federal overreach. By enacting this legislation, Maryland can lead the nation in protecting the privacy, dignity, and safety of all residents.

This legislation is required because of the exigent circumstances we face from an immoral and out-of-control Federal war against immigrants. **I stand with my immigrant neighbors and I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 977.**

Testimony on Data Privacy 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Green

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431 - FAVORABLE

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee


February 17, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Mount Rainier, Maryland, commenting as an individual and wish to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977/HB1431. I am a physician in Maryland and treated many patients with limited resources or insurance when I was the Program Director at Prince George's Hospital Center. Currently I am an active member of the Medical Care Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and more locally with Doctors for Camp Closure. I have treated patients from several different countries including Cameroon, El Salvador, Viet Nam and India. It is important that all people seeking medical care trust that they are safe with their doctors and hospitals. Their concern about how their personal demographic and medical information will be shared is an example of how important it is that their privacy be maintained. Without trust patients do not seek medical care such as my patient with kidney stones who refused to be hospitalized until he became septic from a fulminating abscess. A neighbor required encouragement to take his 3 year old daughter for care for strabismus that was limiting her vision and ultimately required surgical correction.

Previous legislation has addressed data privacy in some areas. But in recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty for both citizens and more recent immigrants. The Maryland Data Privacy Act SB 977 /HB 1431 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 bill helps to ensure my patients' and my neighbors' privacy by empowering the Attorney General to enforce these protections.

SB977/HB1431 strengthens the previous 2021 legislation and will help immigrants from multiple countries to seek care they need. It will also facilitate the work of doctors, social workers, nurses and other agencies to provide adequate treatment and support. I look forward to hearing that the Judiciary Proceedings Committee gives this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your attention.



Linda D. Green MD
3113 Varnum Street
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

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**, and 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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,

Lindsay Keipper

2425 Fleet St., Baltimore

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977:HB1431 support.pdf

Uploaded by: Lois WESSEL

Position: FAV

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

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

Privacy Act SB977 February 19.pdf

Uploaded by: Louise Weissman

Position: FAV

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025
Louise Weissman
Greenbelt, 20770

Testimony on SB#977
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: Louise Weissman

My name is Louise Weissman. I am a resident of District 22 in Greenbelt. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#977: State and Local Agencies - Information of Federal Immigration Law Restrictions on Access to information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

I am 72 years old, and in this digital age, I spend a good deal of time protecting information about me from digital exploitation. Like me, many seniors are vulnerable to unwarranted data sharing illegally used by other individuals, applications, or organizations without permission. This is a universal problem experienced not only by seniors, but children, teenagers, and adults: citizens or not. I am also Jewish and Jewish text, history, traditions, and values compel us “to welcome the stranger.” All Immigrants, whether they are documented or not, have rights that guarantee due-process and protection from discrimination. Those rights must be honored as these people are our co-workers, our neighbors, our friends, and members of our families who came to our country seeking safety, freedom, and a better life.

We must have the means to safeguard our limited state and local resources so they are not used to further any administration’s racist and xenophobic agenda, including: family separation, detention, or mass deportation of immigrants who live in Maryland. Our immigrant communities should be protected from the harmful effects of any anti-immigration policies passed at the federal level. Immigrants should also be able to access government services they are eligible for and not have to worry that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. We must work to strengthen protections for all Marylanders against intrusive and unnecessary federal interventions. So I urge that the State of Maryland pass legislation that can assure immigrant residents that federal agencies will not exploit or target these specific Marylanders. The Maryland Data Privacy Act will block ICE from obtaining warrantless access to any Maryland agencies databases.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a (favorable/favorable with amendments/unfavorable) report on SB#.977

Immigrant protection.pdf

Uploaded by: Luisa Massari

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing : February 19, 2025

Luisa Massari, M.D.
Fallston, Md.21047

Testimony on (SB 977/HB 1431)- Position: Favorable
Protecting Sensitive Location Act

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,
I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977/HB 1431- State and Local Agencies-Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law- Restriction on Access to Information. I am a Family Physician in Towson Maryland. Our practice sees a larger number of immigrants ,many from Spanish speaking countries. We have many visits for newborns and other pediatric visits.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increase fear and uncertainty within these immigrant communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act SB 977/HB 1431 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 present. This legislation would help maintain our patients critical ability to seek medical care, both for much needed preventative care as well as sick visits. Children are overall quite vulnerable and may need immediate attention if sick. They are innocent victims of politics. I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant. Protect Personal Information : The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometrics information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed. Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency. Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply. 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 within our state, we promote the values of dignity, safety and fairness.

In 2021 , this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I, once again call on this legislature to act . I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/ HB 131.

Luisa Massari, M.D.

SB977 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV

SB977**State and Local Agencies – Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law – Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SUPPORT

Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB977, which strengthens privacy protections for Maryland residents by restricting access to state and local government databases, facilities, and buildings for federal immigration enforcement purposes unless accompanied by a valid court warrant.

For a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities.

As the largest private provider of human services in the state, Catholic Charities of Baltimore is committed to supporting immigrants through our Esperanza Center. The Esperanza Center, serving as a vital resource for immigrants since 1963, offers support through a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, providing essential services in education, healthcare, immigration legal matters, family reunification, and general community support to help immigrants from all over the world navigate life in their new country. As an organization that works closely with thousands of immigrants each year, we understand the importance of protecting their personal information—especially in a time when data privacy is at risk.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act directly addresses this concern by ensuring privacy protections for immigrant communities. These protections are essential for maintaining trust between immigrant communities and other government institutions. When immigrant residents feel secure that their personal information will not be shared without proper legal authority, they are more likely to report crimes, seek medical care, and participate fully in their children's education—actions that strengthen the fabric of our Maryland communities.

For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB977.

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Assistant Director of Advocacy

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977_HB 1431.pdf

Uploaded by: Madison Green

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I have been a resident of PG County for the past 4 years, and a resident of Anne Arundel County for 7 years before that. I have had the immense pleasure of working alongside my community to welcome and support our immigrant neighbors for the past decade. I have done so in a personal capacity, and a professional capacity working first as an EMT with Prince George's County Fire Department, and as a Patient Care Technician with MedStar Hospitals. I am the product of immigration myself, as I know all of you who are not directly descendents from the Indigenous people of this land, are as well. It is with basic compassion for human life and dignity that I write to my democratically elected representatives today. I have seen the challenges first hand that are faced by our immigrant neighbors, especially in regards to the barriers they face in receiving healthcare in this state.

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 /HB 1431 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. Revoking this protection is ordering a death sentence on those of our neighbors who would be forced to choose between life saving care, and being detained and arrested by this federal administration which has shown callous lack of care for human life. As an EMT we are required to ask for a social security number from each patient that enters the ambulance. Putting people at risk of deportation through violating the trust that exists when someone cannot supply one is despicable. We see heart attacks, strokes, victims of abuse and violence, and extremely sick children. Doing anything to jeopardize the ability of someone to access emergency healthcare is far from what I elected my officials to do. It would undermine the very mission of emergency services. I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will provide much needed protections for this Maryland community. You should do the same.

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I, once again, call on this legislature to act.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

Testimony on SB977_HB1431.pdf

Uploaded by: Mara Levy

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mara Levy and I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 /HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I'm a proud resident of Silver Spring and have lived in Maryland most of my life. I'm an occupational therapist of 20 years and a small business owner. I am a member of Doctors for Camp Closure.

For years, I've been increasingly distressed about how our country treats immigrants. As a healthcare worker and moral human being, I believe we all have a moral obligation to care for each other. As a trauma therapist, I know how essential it is for people to feel safe in order to function in their day to day lives. Being able to trust our institutions is essential for healthy communities. However, our federal government is acting with what seems to be deliberate cruelty to make the lives of undocumented immigrants difficult and dangerous.

I'm now terrified by ways recent policy parallels the leadup to genocide at other points in history. With the opening of camps in Guantanamo, I'm reminded of the earliest iterations of the concentration camps in Nazi Germany. Our undocumented neighbors are at risk, and need protection.

We all depend on our personal data being kept safe from those who would use it to harm us. We need to be able to trust that our government will use that data for the common good, and won't allow it to be used to harm us without clear and specific cause.

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 /HB 1431 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.

Without trust that our information is kept safe, my clients are afraid to register their children for health insurance. They're afraid to get the drivers license they need to drive safely. They're afraid to get the vaccinations that protect us all.

Maryland is now able to take steps to protect our immigrant neighbors. We can make it safer to receive necessary services and participate in public life. We can make it harder for our residents to be rounded up without specific cause. We have a chance to do the right thing.

I strongly urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

Mara Levy MSOT, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, SEP

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977.pdf

Uploaded by: Margaret Trenkle

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

Margaret Trenkle, 702 Eastshire Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21228

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to offer favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities and beyond. So many of us have been hacked or had our data used for illegitimate purposes that it makes us wary whenever we fill out forms for medical services, to sign up for programs, or register complaints. How much more is it a fearful situation for immigrants documented or undocumented to fill out medical forms for required vaccinations, to sign-up for food programs, or make a complaint when they are being victimized or trying to access services to which they are entitled. 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.

As a person who values due process, I am very concerned when we give up protections that keep us safe because it is expedient or quicker. They are one of the things that makes our country different from others.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will require law enforcement agencies and state and local government officials to deny access to sensitive data to federal immigration officers without a valid court-issued warrant. It also requires agencies to maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency. Finally, it provides civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who violate the law.

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.

I strongly support SB977 and urge the committee to provide a favorable report on it to move it forward.

MB Testimony Data Protection Senates SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Maria Baltodano

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

My name is Maria Baltodano and I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

I immigrated to this country from Nicaragua 11 years ago in 2004 and have been here since then. I am a domestic worker, and a proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter—the leading voice for domestic workers—including nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers in the United States. I am here today in full support of SB 977 to protect sensitive data from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because even though I am fortunate enough to be a permanent resident of this country, many of our immigrant neighbors and community members other immigrants do not have documentation in this country.

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.

Currently, there is a lot of fear in the immigrant community. I hear from my friends who are undocumented that they are afraid to leave their houses right now because of the threat of deportation. The truth is that many people have left their countries in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Many are running from dangerous conditions in their countries and look to the United States as a safe haven. Yet, the last couple of weeks have felt very scary for many.

I have raised and had my children in this country. I have planted my roots here and I can't imagine what it would be like to be separated from my family. Yet, this is the truth for my undocumented brothers and sisters that run the risk of deportation.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due

legal processes are followed.

3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

Spanish:

Mi nombre es María Baltodano y me complace ofrecer un testimonio favorable en firme apoyo de SB 977- Agencias Estatales y Locales - Aplicación de la Ley Federal de Inmigración - Restricciones en el Acceso a la Información (Ley de Privacidad de Datos de Maryland).

Inmigré a los Estados Unidos desde Nicaragua en 2004 y he residido en Maryland desde entonces. Me siento obligado a apoyar el SB 977 porque aunque tengo la suerte de tener residencia permanente en este condado, muchos otros inmigrantes no tienen un estatus seguro en este país y son más vulnerables que nunca.

En los últimos años, la erosión de la protección de la privacidad de los datos ha provocado un aumento del miedo y la incertidumbre en las comunidades de inmigrantes. La Ley de Privacidad de Datos de Maryland SB 977 adopta medidas fundamentales para restablecer la confianza al garantizar que las agencias estatales y locales, así como las entidades encargadas de hacer cumplir la ley, tengan prohibido compartir información personal, datos de reconocimiento facial y acceso a instalaciones públicas con las autoridades federales de inmigración a menos que se presente una orden válida.

Actualmente, hay mucho miedo en la comunidad inmigrante. Mis amigos indocumentados me cuentan que ahora mismo tienen miedo de salir de casa por la amenaza de deportación. La verdad es que muchas personas han abandonado sus países en busca de una vida mejor para ellos y sus familias. Muchos huyen de las condiciones peligrosas de sus países y miran a Estados Unidos como un refugio seguro. Sin embargo, las dos últimas semanas han dado mucho miedo a muchos.

Yo he criado y he tenido a mis hijos en este país. He echado mis raíces aquí y no puedo imaginar lo que sería estar separada de mi familia. Sin embargo, esta es la verdad para mis hermanos y hermanas indocumentados que corren el riesgo de ser deportados.

Me solidarizo con las comunidades de inmigrantes y apoyo la Ley de Privacidad de Datos de Maryland porque:

- Limita el acceso a bases de datos e instalaciones: Las agencias de aplicación de la ley y las unidades gubernamentales estatales o locales deben negar el acceso a datos e instalaciones sensibles a las personas que tratan de hacer cumplir la ley federal de inmigración sin una orden judicial válida emitida por un tribunal.
- Proteger la información personal: La Ley prohíbe la divulgación de datos personales, fotografías e información biométrica, como escáneres de reconocimiento facial, a las autoridades federales de inmigración a menos que se sigan los debidos procesos legales.
- Rendición de cuentas y transparencia: Las agencias deben mantener registros de todas las solicitudes de acceso y presentar informes anuales al Fiscal General y a la Asamblea General para garantizar el cumplimiento y la transparencia.
- Garantizar el cumplimiento y las sanciones: El Fiscal General está facultado para hacer cumplir estas protecciones, con sanciones civiles por violaciones y medidas disciplinarias para los empleados estatales que no cumplan.

Esta legislación es crucial no sólo para proteger la intimidad de todos los residentes de Maryland, sino también

para fomentar la confianza entre las comunidades de inmigrantes y las instituciones públicas. Al delinear claramente los límites de la aplicación de la ley federal de inmigración dentro de nuestro estado, promovemos los valores de dignidad, seguridad y equidad.

En 2021, esta legislatura tomó medidas para proteger a los inmigrantes y salvaguardar sus datos confidenciales. Instó a la comisión a proporcionar un informe favorable sobre el SB 977.



-
- *People trusted these state agencies to protect them, and people will be at risk of deportation if ICE can access this data*
- *People don't trust these agencies*
- *To protect deportations*

SB977_Marjorie Simon_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Marjorie Simon

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marjorie Simon. I am a resident of District 11B. Along with others from my synagogue, Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools, I have been helping to resettle Afghan newcomers since February 2022. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 977- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

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.

The family I am helping has supplied personal information when applying for government services for which they are eligible such as Medicaid and public library cards. They should not feel they are putting themselves at risk by sharing this information with government agencies. Thanks to the 2021 Driver Privacy Act, they did not have those concerns when applying for a driver's license or Maryland State ID. We should all have the same protections for data privacy regardless of the state or local agency with which we are interacting.

I, Marjorie Simon, stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

1. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
2. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

- 3. Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

In 2021 this legislature passed the 2021 Driver Privacy Act which protected immigrants and safeguarded the sensitive data in the MVA databases. Once again, I call on the legislature to act.

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.

I, Marjorie Simon, urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

SB977_ZackBerger_JUFJ_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Matan Zeimer

Position: FAV

February 19th



Zackary Berger, MD, PhD
Baltimore, Maryland, 21218

TESTIMONY ON SB 977 - 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: Zackary Berger, MD, PhD

My name is Zackary Berger. I am a resident of District 43A, writing as a representative of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) in strong support of SB977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act. JUFJ organizes 6,000 Jews and allies from across Maryland in support of state and local social, racial, and economic justice campaigns.

Jews United for Justice is a local organization of Jews and others fighting for humane values as represented in the Jewish tradition. More than a thousand years ago, a rabbi named Rabbenu Gershom instituted a decree which some Jews observe to this day. Simple, but neither trivial or irrelevant in our age, the edict forbade people from reading others' mail. Two reasons given for the decree: that using others' information without their consent is theft; and that we should not treat others' letters in a way we would not want our own to be treated.

Besides my active involvement in Jews United for Justice, I am a proud resident of the diverse neighborhood of Charles Village in Baltimore, which includes a number of immigrants. I am also a primary care physician who sees patients at a community center in Baltimore, many of whom are undocumented immigrants.

As a physician who treats undocumented people, I see many patients who are terrified to be caught by the state when they are just trying to live a better life. They don't know if their medical, legal, or driving records can be used by ICE to deport them back to countries they left— where they faced threats of violence, poverty, and persecution. This fear is accompanied by justified mistrust. This legislation would ensure that only a legal warrant grants ICE access to information, and would mandate state departments to record instances of ICE access.

As I write this testimony I recall the patients I saw in my work day today, all trying to work hard for their families, but all terrified that a false move could jeopardize their lives. Government should help, not hurt, and data collection should be for the benefit of residents, not a playground for those wishing to deport them without duly executed warrants.

As our neighbors, immigrants deserve to be treated like anyone should be treated – private information should stay private unless there is an attested legal need with a warrant.

On behalf of JUFJ, I respectfully urge the committee to return a favorable report on SB977.

SB977_Mazurek_Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Mazurek

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Mazurek and I live in Silver Spring, in District 20. I write to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

As a computer science professor who has spent 15 years researching digital security and privacy, I study professionally the importance of privacy rights to healthy societies, and the detrimental chilling effects that privacy violations can have on communities and individuals. Specifically in the case of immigrant communities in Maryland, erosion of data privacy protections has increased fear and uncertainty, and inhibited community members from working with state agencies that provide vital services.

I have seen these effects firsthand, not just as a privacy professional, but as a neighbor and a mom. My daughter's elementary school has a large population of immigrants and children of immigrants, and I know the fear that immigrant families are living with, which impacts people's willingness to send their children to school as well as their ability to access food assistance, social services, and medical care. It is heartbreaking to see these effects in my community.

Further, as the granddaughter of immigrants, refugees, and Holocaust survivors, I benefited from the lives my grandparents were able to build in the U.S. They started their lives over, starting with almost nothing, in the 1940s and 50s. Today's immigrants deserve the same chance to build new lives here, raise their families, and contribute to our community, and they deserve to do so without fear.

SB977 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.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I once again call on this legislature to act.¹

With my **strongest conviction, I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB977.**

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)

SB977_NicoleMorse_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: NICOLE MORSE

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support** of **SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**.

As a Jewish American who is committed to the rights of refugees and immigrants, it is horrifying to me to watch the US become increasingly dangerous for immigrants, migrants, and refugees.

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.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I again call on this legislature to act¹ and provide a favorable report on HB 1431.

¹[2021, MGA HB23](#)

2:19:25 Testimony Pam Stuckey.pdf

Uploaded by: Pam Stuckey

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977/HB 1431

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee OR House Judiciary Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

HB: Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

Pam Stuckey, RN, BSN is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 977 / HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

I am a retired nurse who has also been involved in supporting immigrants and their communities for many years. As someone very familiar with the health care system and more importantly familiar with communicating with patients and ... more importantly knowing before I ever even entered Nursing School but certainly ascribed to after becoming a nurse ... the safety and security of every patient is THE priority AND their health is dependent on the degree of emotional security and respect they feel and experience within the health care system. Immigrants, regardless of their status, deserve the same safety and security as every, regardless of their status. I know as a nurse that my success as a nurse was dependent on the degree of trust each patient had in what I said and did. And I know if immigrants feel that they will put themselves at risk by reaching out to the health care system they will then put their health at greater risk.

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 /HB 1431 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.

I do not want to see people who are already stressed and vulnerable experience more fear. This is contrary to my ethics as a nurse and to the values of the health care system.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

Limit Access to Databases and Facilities: Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.

Protect Personal Information: The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.

Provide Accountability and Transparency: Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.

Ensure Enforcement and Penalties: The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. ORG, once again calls on this legislature to act.

I/ORGANIZATION urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977/HB 1431.

Pam Stuckey, RN, BSN
Kensington, MD, 20895

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act - Mady.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachael Mady

Position: FAV

Maryland Data Privacy Act

Bill number and link: [SB977](#)

Description: Maryland Data Privacy Act (2025: TK) After realizing that the MVA was giving information on immigrants with driver's licenses to ICE, activists worked to pass legislation banning the MVA from turning over information like this without a warrant. This bill would apply the same protections to data possessed by other Maryland agencies, so they can't be used by ICE to hunt down immigrants.

Action Alert Messaging:

Resources:

- [CASA description](#)
- [CASA presentation on ICE use of data from the MVA](#) (the legislation this presentation talks about was passed over the governor's veto in 2021, but it's useful information because it's an example both of how ICE uses free access to state databases to target immigrants, and how legislation can be used to combat it)
- [Leg Day Video \(58 minutes\)](#)

Partner: [CASA de Maryland](#)

Introduce yourself

- Where do you live? (include MD District #)
- Do you have expertise?
- List organizations (community, religious, business, etc.) you are a member of

Express your position/request clearly

- State whether you are in SUPPORT or AGAINST said bill
- **Include bill number**

Factual arguments to back up your position

- Can use data from Accountability Partner presentations/websites

Personal story

- This is often the most powerful part!
- Can use anecdotes from Accountability Partner or SURJ presentations
- If you don't have direct personal experience, how does the experience of others affect you and/or your community?

Review/ restate your position

Thank the legislator!

On the next page, yellow highlighted areas represent places that should be modified for the testimony template to be complete.

Red bold areas should remain in the document and are filled in by individual people

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 12** and 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 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: 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,
Rachael Mady
4870 Dorsey Hall Drive, Unit 8, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB 977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Shillenn

Position: FAV

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 45**. **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 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: 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.

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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,

Rebecca Shillenn

5401 Elsrode Avenue Baltimore 21214

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Testimony in support of SB0977 - State and Local A

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0977_RichardKaplowitz_FAV2

02/19/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0977 - 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: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0977, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

This bill is predicated on the United States Constitution and its interpretation: ¹

The Constitution protects all people living in the United States, regardless of immigration status. Most constitutional provisions apply based on personhood, not citizenship. In other words, if an individual is physically present in the US, they are entitled to the protections granted by the Constitution. This includes the right to due process and equal protection under the law.

The [Fifth Amendment](#), for example, states that “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” And the Fourteenth Amendment uses the [Due Process Clause](#) that describes the legal obligation of all state governments to provide equal protection of the laws to all persons, regardless of immigration status. So while undocumented immigrants are not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, they are still protected by its principles.

When ICE or other government entities attempt to enforce laws, they must do so within the context of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and statutes of the state of Maryland. ²

In recent years, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained and deported record numbers of people from the United States. Many of ICE’s removal tactics take away even the right to a fair hearing in court, as the government rushes to

¹ <https://clearwaterlawgrouptricity.com/5-rights-of-undocumented-immigrants/#:~:text=Although%20undocumented%20immigrants%20are%20not,and%20the%20right%20to%20education>.

² <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses>

judgment and tries to ram people through a rubber-stamp system that ignores individual circumstances. These enforcement programs pose a variety of threats to civil liberties: They implicate the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the constitutional guarantee of due process, and the constitutional guarantee of equal protection and freedom from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and national origin. ICE's enforcement practices also impose heavy social costs, tearing American families apart and undermining community trust in law enforcement.

This bill will protect residents in Maryland privacy by altering certain provisions of law. The Maryland Data Privacy Act would compel law enforcement agencies and units of state or local government to **deny access to personal information and photographs and certain databases, facilities, or buildings by certain individuals seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law unless presented with a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court.** It also mandates the Attorney General to enforce these provisions and outline disciplinary actions for state employees who violate the act.

My Jewish faith provides to me the commandment to care for the stranger which is mentioned more times than *any* other commandment in the Torah — more even than the command to love God (*v'ahavta*). According to the Talmud, Rabbi Eliezer the Great noted that "the Torah warns 36 times, and some say 46 times, not to oppress the stranger" (Babylonian Talmud, *Bava M'tzia* 59b). The decree is articulated in a number of ways: "You shall not wrong nor oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:20). "The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens... for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).³

This bill respects that commandment in treatment of our immigrant population in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0977.

³ [https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20\(Leviticus19%3A34\)](https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20(Leviticus19%3A34))

BJC Support SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enf

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV



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- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
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- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- Bnai Brith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- Bnai Israel Congregation
- Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevrá A Havas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beir Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emunah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Senate Bill 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of
Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information
(Maryland Data Privacy Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025
SUPPORT**

Background: If enacted, Senate Bill 977 would alter provisions of the law so that a law enforcement agency or unit of State or local government would deny access to certain databases with personal information, facial recognition data, and access to public facilities to federal immigration authorities unless a valid warrant is presented.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies and programs. Immigration has been a central element of the Jewish experience since biblical times. The American Jewish Community has long advocated for fair and just immigration and refugee policies, in accordance with the biblical teaching to *welcome the stranger*. To that end, Maryland should be a welcoming state to those who want to be here. Those facing deportation are in a dire position and are often facing the prospect of having to leave a place they have called home for many years.

Further, many of our ancestors were stopped in the street for their papers, harassed by local law enforcement, and forced to register in a database of fellow Jews. While these policies were framed as security measures, they resulted in irreversible damage that cannot be forgotten. Maryland *must not* repeat this history by targeting the community members it swears to serve and protect.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on SB977.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

SB 977- Maryland Data Privacy Act - Dolamore - Sup

Uploaded by: Stephanie Dolamore

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025

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 43A. **I am testifying in support of SB 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Immigrants in Maryland my friends, my neighbors, and other hard-working people who help build our communities and they do not 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: **after Maryland allowed undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses in 2013, ICE began using MVA data to conduct their work.** 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.

SB 977 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 real warrant, signed by a judge, authorizing their access to private information. In addition, SB 977 seeks to fight back against the president's revocation of the "sensitive locations" policy by requiring government agencies to deny access to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

We must stand up for our friends and neighbors by doing what we can in Maryland to support them. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Dolamore
3718 Yolando Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977_Susan Tafler_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Tafler

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Testimony: SB977 State and Local Agencies—Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law—Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Submitting Susan Tafler

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

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

My name is Susan Tafler and I am a resident of Odenton, District 21. I am submitting this testimony urging the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 977. State and Local Agencies—Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law—Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act) will stop ICE from accessing state databases, records, or information without a valid warrant, thereby ensuring that state data is not misused. It will also require state agencies to document all ICE access requests and report to the General Assembly and Attorney General, thereby creating transparency and ensuring compliance with the law.

I am the granddaughter of four immigrants from Eastern Europe who came to America for freedom from forced conscription and freedom from arrest for unionizing activities as well as better economic opportunities and safety from antisemitic pogroms. As a Jew guided by our sacred texts, I am mindful that the Bible commands us: “When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

The 2021 Driver Privacy Act was a vital step, blocking ICE from warrantless access to MVA data. But gaps remain, and other state agencies still hold sensitive information that ICE could exploit. The Maryland Data Privacy Act strengthens Maryland’s protections, ensuring that no state agency data can be weaponized against immigrant communities. Our state agencies should not be complicit in aggressive federal enforcement and overreach. By enacting SB977, Maryland will be stronger in protecting the privacy, dignity, and safety of all residents.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 977.

Testimony SB 977 - CPSR.pdf

Uploaded by: Terrence Fitzgerald

Position: FAV



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.

Terrence T. Fitzgerald, MD

SB0977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FAV

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 43b. **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 he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, our neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities 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; 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 real 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 to their buildings and facilities to immigration authorities 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/general enforcement actions.

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,
Theresa M. Hoffman
803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB977 Data Privacy 2025 Ditz FAV(1).pdf

Uploaded by: Toby Ditz

Position: FAV

Feb 19, 2025
Toby Ditz
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

TESTIMONY ON SB 977/HB 143 | 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 Committee

FROM: Toby Ditz

My name is Toby Ditz, and I have lived in Baltimore City's District 40 for over almost forty years. This testimony is **in support of sb977**.

I am deeply committed to this legislation partly because I am the grandchild of Jewish immigrants. My maternal grandmother, Helen, emigrated in 1919 from Russia in the midst of civil war in the company of her mother and younger sister; they fled across the closing Polish border to Amsterdam and then entered the US through Ellis Island. Had they tried to come here only ten years later, after US immigration policy choked off the flow of immigrants from Eastern Europe (and elsewhere around the world), I doubt I would be here today. I am profoundly grateful they made it.

The gates of immigration once again opened after 1965, but we are now in the midst of an era of backlash. President Trump has now promised mass arrest and deportations. This includes seizure of data on our immigrant residents from state agencies.

Since 2021, this legislature has worked to protect sensitive personal data. The Maryland Data Privacy Act continues this tradition by directing state agencies and local law enforcement officers to share Personal data, including data based on biometrics, with federal immigration enforcement officers only if the latter obtains a court ordered warrant. Their data requests must also be limited to what the warrant designates.

This proposed legislation offers common sense protection of our residents and correctly delineates the extent and limits on cooperation of state agencies and local law enforcement officers with federal immigration agents.

.Let's continue our tradition of protecting the privacy rights of all Marylanders.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB977.

2.17 SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforceme

Uploaded by: Tonaeya Moore

Position: FAV



SB 977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025
SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 977. This bill will protect immigrant families and ensure that private and sensitive data on immigrant communities is not used against them to target, detain, and separate families.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

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.

CASH stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. CASH once again calls on this legislature to act.

CASH urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope

SB977 - Data Privacy Act - SWASC - FAV.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 977

State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act) *Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee* February 19, 2025

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports SB 977, which will ensure that federal immigration authorities cannot access sensitive information without a valid warrant. SB 977 takes additional critical steps to protect private data and shore up trust between the state's immigrant communities and public institutions by preventing law enforcement agencies and units of state and local government from entering into agreements for information sharing with federal immigration enforcement authorities.

SB 977 will protect personal information and mandate measures for transparency and accountability from state and local government entities. By requiring court-issued warrants to access sensitive data and facilities to enforce federal immigration law, SB 977 prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information such as facial recognition scans to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed. The bill requires agencies to maintain records of all requests to access private data and to submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly. The Maryland Data Privacy Act will empower the Attorney General to enforce its protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

SB 977 is a necessary protection to help immigrants feel safe in Maryland. Drastic changes in immigration policies over the last two administrations have shown that the fear and uncertainty immigrant communities experience in response to attacks on their families contribute to adverse health outcomes and avoidance of safety net programs.¹ At the start of his second term, President Trump has threatened to expand surveillance for the capture and deportation of millions of immigrants around the country. The Maryland Data Privacy Act is just one among many other safeguards that must be put in place to limit these grounds for further violence against the state's immigrant communities.

Protecting immigrants in Maryland supports the state's economy during a time of extreme labor shortages and a nearly \$3 billion budget gap.² In a report by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, it was estimated that undocumented

¹Gonzalez, D., Bernstein, H., Karpman, M., & Kenney, G. (2024). *Mixed-Status Families and Immigrant Families with Children Continued Avoiding Safety Net Programs in 2023*. Urban Institute.

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/mixed-status-families-and-immigrant-families-children-continued-avoiding>

²Cates, L., Melhorn, S.F. (2024). *Understanding America's Labor Shortage: The Most Impacted States*. U.S. Chamber of Commerce. <https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/the-states-suffering-most-from-the-labor-shortage>

immigrants paid \$779.3 million in state and local taxes in 2022.³ Undocumented immigrants help fund the social programs that keep many Marylanders afloat. Based on the Governor's proposed FY 2026 appropriations⁴, immigrant contributions alone could fully fund the Uninsured Employers' Fund, the Department of Disabilities, the Workers' Compensation Committee, the State Board of Elections, the Governor's Office for Children, the Department of Aging, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the Department of Veterans and Military Families with money to spare. Without the immigrant workforce, the state will be forced to cut more programs and watch as small businesses suffer the loss of both the workers and customers needed to flourish. By working to keep immigrants in the state safe, Maryland can harness the economic contributions offered by the immigrant community.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report on SB 977. This legislation is crucial for protecting the privacy of all Maryland residents and 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.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

³ Davis, C., Guzman, M., Sifre, E. (2024). *Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants*. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>

⁴ Department of Budget and Management (2025). *Budget Highlights FY 2026. pg 11.1*, Department of Budget and Management.

SB977.pdf

Uploaded by: Zainab Chaudry

Position: FAV



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

6120 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 2D

Baltimore, MD 21228

E-mail: mdoutreach@cair.com URL www.cair.com

Tele 410-971-6062 Fax 202-488-0833

February 18, 2025

Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony Favorable for SB977 Maryland Data Privacy Act

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 977 Maryland Data Privacy Act. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

This critical legislation ensures that Maryland's state and local agencies uphold the fundamental rights and privacy of all residents by restricting access to sensitive data and facilities for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws without proper judicial oversight.

Protecting Privacy and Civil Rights

CAIR Maryland and many groups have long documented the harmful effects of collaboration between local agencies and federal immigration enforcement. Immigrant communities continue to face unwarranted surveillance, discrimination, and harassment based on their immigration status, race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. This bill is a necessary safeguard against the misuse of state and local resources to advance federal immigration enforcement policies that often disproportionately target marginalized communities.

Ensuring Trust in Public Institutions

When state and local agencies share sensitive data with federal immigration authorities without due process, it erodes trust between communities and the institutions meant to serve them. The fear of data misuse prevents immigrant residents from accessing essential services, reporting crimes, and engaging with law enforcement, making communities less safe. SB 977 restores public confidence by ensuring that no Maryland agency provides personal data, access to facilities, or facial recognition technology for immigration enforcement purposes without a valid court-issued warrant.

Accountability and Oversight

This bill rightfully establishes clear accountability measures. By requiring agencies to document requests for access to databases and facilities, it promotes transparency in government operations. Additionally, empowering the Attorney General to enforce compliance and issue civil penalties for violations ensures that this legislation has real, enforceable consequences for agencies that fail to uphold the law.

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Kansas Kentucky Maryland
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania
Texas Washington

Preventing Racial and Religious Profiling

For years, Muslim and Arab Americans have been disproportionately impacted by federal immigration enforcement programs that rely on broad and invasive data-sharing agreements. SB 977 directly addresses these concerns by preventing unwarranted cooperation between state and federal agencies, reducing the risk of racial, religious, and ethnic profiling.

For these reasons and more, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 977 to protect the rights and privacy of Maryland's residents, prevent the misuse of state and local resources, and uphold our state's commitment to justice and fairness. We stand ready to support this effort and work alongside legislators to ensure Maryland remains a place of safety and dignity for all including our diverse immigrant communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Maryland
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
zchaudry@cair.com

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Kansas Kentucky Maryland
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania
Texas Washington

SB977 - Data privacy act FAV 2025.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Zoe Gallagher

Position: FAV



SB977 State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

Hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

February 19, 2025

Position: FAVORABLE

The Honorable Senator William Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

I am writing today to urge your favorable report on SB977, which would protect immigrant communities from data sharing to federal immigration authorities unless a valid warrant is presented

Through our direct services program, Economic Action has engaged with the immigrant community in Maryland for several years. One thing remains incredibly clear, immigrants contribute greatly to Maryland as community members and members of our workforce.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act SB977 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.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD · 21218 · 410-220-0494

info@econaction.org · www.econaction.org

Tax ID 52-2266235

Economic Action Maryland Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Through our Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) Program, our counselors work with low-income families and older adults to ensure they are able to receive necessary resources for economic success. In 2023-2024 17% of our SOAR clients were Latinx. Although we do not track documented status due to privacy concerns, we are deeply worried that without this bill, immigrants in our community will not seek the resources they need, particularly when it pertains to resources secured through SDAT.

Economic Action Maryland Fund stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. We were in support of that bill for similar reasons that we support SB977, consumers should not live in fear of their personal data being bought, sold, or collected, particularly if that data could be used against them. Economic Action Maryland Fund once again calls on this legislature to act.¹

¹[2021, MGA HB23](#)



For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB977.

Thank you,

Zoe Gallagher

Policy Associate

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD · 21218 · 410-220-0494

info@econaction.org · www.econaction.org

Tax ID 52-2266235

Economic Action Maryland Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SB 977_AFSCME3_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Denise Gilmore

Position: FWA



1410 Bush Street (Suite A)
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

**SB 977 – State and Local Agencies – Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law –
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)
Finance Committee
February 19, 2025**

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

AFSCME Council 3 represents 45,000 state, county, and municipal employees across Maryland, many of whom are immigrants. Among our union's core values is to progress social justice with all we do, and to stand up for the most vulnerable around us. The Maryland Data Privacy Act 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 important policy clarification also helps to ensure that no state or local employees have ambiguity about their job assignments or expectations when it comes to interacting with federal immigration authorities.

Under state and local personnel codes, employees are already subject to discipline, up to and including termination, when they are insubordinate or willfully violating policy. We are uneasy about setting up a parallel disciplinary provision in this bill, and don't believe it is necessary. As such, we request the following amendment:

AFSCME Amendment to SB 977

Pg. 5: Strike lines 18-20 in their entirety.

AFSCME Council 3 is proud to support SB 977, and we urge the committee to provide a Favorable Report with this amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Favorable with amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Powers

Position: FWA

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This law should be amended to allow law enforcement and others to cooperate for illegal immigrants convicted of crimes (whatever level you deem appropriate, violent crimes or gang activity) and/or on the terrorist watch list.

A warrant should not be needed to enter jails.

Criminal activity should not be protected in Maryland. If I was living in another country, I would expect the same treatment.

Thank you,

Ryan Powers

3646 Sharp Rd.
Glenwood, MD 21738

2025 SB0977 Testimony Against 2025-02-19.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Testimony Against SB0977

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable report against SB0977.

I am against:

- Altering certain provisions of law to require a law enforcement agency or a unit of State or local government to deny access to certain databases, facilities, or buildings by certain individuals seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, under certain circumstances;
- requiring the Attorney General to enforce certain provisions of the Act; and
- providing that a State employee that violates certain provisions of the Act is subject to certain discipline.

Based on the law cited by the bill and the proposed amendments, the State would prohibit sharing data or allowing entry to a state facility to federal law enforcement officers if those officers state they are seeking, OR APPEARS TO BE SEEKING, access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law and do not have a warrant. By making the distinction, “for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law”, one can infer that the state would allow access for these federal officers if they were seeking access to enforce any other federal law, but did not have a warrant.

Making it more difficult to enforce federal immigration law, but not the enforcement of other federal laws is outrageous! It is this level of non-cooperation with federal law enforcement that led to Maryland and other states allowing the release of violent, illegal immigrants like the person who raped and murdered Rachel Morin. Rather than notify federal law enforcement that we have an illegal immigrant in jail for committing a crime while in the county illegally, so that the illegal person can be arrested and deported upon release from state custody, those that support this bill would rather make it more difficult for law enforcement to locate them. Until finally located by immigration enforcement officers, this would make it more dangerous for the citizens of the state who may be injured by these released illegals. Also it would make it more dangerous for the federal officers when they try to arrest them in an uncontrolled environment, rather than apprehend them at a secure location such as a state or county prison.

This bill is another example where the Democrat party places more importance on assisting those who break the law, whether citizens or illegals, than on the safety of the law-abiding citizens of Maryland.

Please enter an unfavorable report against SB0977.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, MD 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net
February 19, 2025

SB0977testimonysigned.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Franklin

Position: UNF



Morningside Police Department

6901 Ames Street
Morningside, MD 20746
Phone: 301-736-7400



Daniel J. Franklin
Chief of Police

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr. – Chair

FROM: Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255
Morningside Police Department

RE: Written Testimony Opposing SB 0977
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to
Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

DATE: February 17, 2025

Greetings Chairman Smith and the members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Daniel Franklin, and I am the Chief of Police for the Morningside Police Department in Prince George's County, Maryland. After careful review of SB 0977 sponsored by Senator Lam, I am submitting this written testimony **OPPOSING** the passage of the bill as written.

The focus of this bill is narrow, but the potential unintended consequences can be tremendously negative for State and Local law enforcement agencies. There are numerous Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies and units of government that have cooperative agreements in place and have for years. The heart of most of the cooperative agreements in the law enforcement world is information sharing although there are other agreements regarding housing Federal detainees/prisoners with immigration warrants. These agreements would be dissolved, and detention facilities would be able to refuse to take custody of federal immigration violators. While this bill focuses strictly on personal information and/or photographs of undocumented immigrants relative to the enforcement of immigration violations and the actual enforcement of those violations, the potential exists that any other investigations that this information may be used in could now be halted. This would include identification of crime victims or witnesses that may or may not happen to have federal arrest warrants for immigration violations. This is particularly troublesome since the human trafficking has reached epidemic proportions and often the victims are not always readily identifiable.

Without question, there is a great deal of scrutiny on the methods that the Federal government is currently using to address immigration enforcement. This bill is obviously in response to those methods and seeks to establish protection for undocumented immigrants. No matter what a person's view is on immigration enforcement, establishing a law that seems to provide instant clarification and guidance but leaves future collaboration in question can be a very dangerous proposition. As I mentioned earlier, collaboration with Federal entities is not limited to law enforcement, and it would not be a favorable idea if the overall cooperative efforts were hindered or halted due to one issue.

My request of this committee is to **pause this legislation and convene a workgroup** that is composed of parties that would be directly affected by this legislation. I would suggest that the workgroup includes Sheriffs that also manage detention facilities, County executives/administrators/managers of the counties that currently have cooperative agreements with federal agencies regarding housing of immigration violators, MCA/MSA representatives, federal representatives from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and legal counsel from any of the previously mentioned parties. This avenue would not dismiss the legislation or what the legislation is meant to address, and it would give all sides involved the opportunity to come to the table and discuss the best plan moving forward.

For all the reasons that I have listed above, I respectfully request your consideration of my position of **OPPOSING** the passage of SB 0381 and further respectfully request that the workgroup mentioned above be convened to address this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

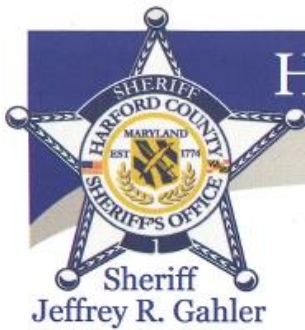
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255
Morningside Police Department

SB 977 Immigration Enforcement.pdf

Uploaded by: Erik Robey

Position: UNF



HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COURAGE HONOR INTEGRITY

Senate Bill 977 – Oppose

State and Local Agencies- Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law-Restrictions on Access to Information

Letter of Opposition to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, I am pleased to submit this letter of opposition to Senate Bill 977.

Across our Country, public safety partners are sharing information and working cooperatively to identify and remove dangerous criminals who are in this Country illegally. In Harford County, we have proudly partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the last 8 years through our 287(g) Agreement, but the language in this Bill would put this beneficial public safety partnership in serious jeopardy.

As written this Bill would prohibit ICE enforcement officers from coming into Maryland jails to serve detainers on dangerous criminal illegal immigrants and removing them from our communities. It would also prevent the three counties that participate in the 287(g) Program; Harford, Cecil and Frederick, from continuing these agreements; due to the provision in the legislation that prohibits agreements for information sharing with federal partners, such as the Department of Homeland Security, for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

If this piece of legislation was to pass; it would essential outlaw a federally established program created under President Clinton that pertains only to correctional facilities and only to those individuals who have already been arrested for a crime. Since being accepted to participate in the 287(g) Program by President Obama, I have been pleased with the partnership we have enjoyed with ICE, and the positive public safety impact it has had here in Harford County for the citizens we serve.

The voters of Maryland spoke clearly in a survey last month when an overwhelming majority (76%) said they wanted illegal immigrants who commit crimes to be identified and deported. I am hopefully that this Committee will support the will of the people and public safety to ensure we have the ability to work cooperatively with all of our federal partners to keep our communities safe.

I would strongly urge an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 977.

Respectfully Offered,

Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler

COURAGE HONOR INTEGRITY

SB977 FAIAR

Uploaded by: Shari Rendall

Position: UNF



February 19, 2025

The Honorable William Smith, Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and other distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation's interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has more than three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's strong opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 977. FAIR opposes the reckless lawlessness of sanctuary policies like those imposed by this bill.

Sanctuary policies place a greater emphasis on the welfare of illegal aliens than the well-being and safety of citizens and legal immigrants in their own communities by impeding the enforcement of federal immigration laws and blocking free communication between state and local officials and federal immigration officials.

SB 977 expresses that state and local officials should have no involvement in immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. In practical terms, this bill not only forbids law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal agents in enforcing immigration laws, but more importantly, prevents them from alerting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they become aware of the fact that a suspected criminal in custody at the local jail might also be in this country illegally and thus removable by law. Instead of handing these convicted

criminals over to ICE for removal, they will be released back onto Maryland streets, many to recommit more crimes.

Further, SB 977 conflicts with federal law. Specifically, 8 U.S.C. §1357 (g) states that law enforcement officers may enter into memorandums of understanding with ICE but also that a formal agreement with the federal government is *not* necessary for any officer or employee of a state or local agency to communicate with the Attorney General regarding the immigration status of any individual, including reporting knowledge that a particular alien is not lawfully present in the United States or to cooperate with the Attorney General in the identification, apprehension, *detention*, or removal of aliens not lawfully present in the United States.

In its 2022 End-of-Year report (the most recent one available), the Department of Homeland Security highlighted the effectiveness of the state and federal partnerships. State and local law enforcement 287(g) officers encountered 8,842 aliens from 141 countries. Of those encountered, 1,895 were convicted criminals and 4,999 had pending criminal charges. Among the charges and convictions were 1,594 for assault, 1,189 for dangerous drugs, 74 for homicides, and 430 for larceny. Only 160 had criminal charges or convictions for immigration.

The 287(g) program merely adds a tool to the crime fighting belt of law enforcement offices by detaining criminals and preventing them from revictimizing others in the community. It helps to better protect residents.

Moreover, policies, like S.B. 977 deny ICE critical assistance to enable it to accomplish its statutorily mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens who are currently in state or local custody. ICE has more than 20,000 employees, but less than half are dedicated to the apprehension and removal of illegal aliens. The cooperation of state and local law enforcement, which number about 900,000 strong, is vital to ferreting out those among us who are here illegally and who wish to cause us harm. At least five of the 9/11 hijackers were illegal aliens, four of whom came into contact with state and local law enforcement several times before the attacks, in some cases just days prior to the attack.¹ If those state and local law enforcement officers had worked with federal immigration officials, the 9/11 terrorist plot might have been thwarted.

Bills like SB 977 tell criminal aliens that despite violating federal laws, law enforcement and other government officials will ignore them. Just because the regulation of immigration is a federal issue, does not mean that state and local law enforcement agencies must overlook immigration violations that harm their communities. State and local officials cooperate with the federal law enforcement in every aspect, such as gun control and drug laws, and immigration enforcement should not be an exception.

¹¹ CNN, "Another Hijacker Was Stopped for Traffic Violation, January 9, 2002

To ensure the safety of our communities, state and local law enforcement and governments should be encouraged—not discouraged—from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. For these reasons, FAIR opposes SB 977.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "Shari" being a large, stylized capital "S".

Shari Rendall

sb977.pdf

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: UNF

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
P: (410)260-1523

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 977
State and Local Agencies – Enforcement of Federal Immigration
Law – Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data
Privacy Act)
DATE: February 12, 2025
(2/19)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 977 to the extent it would apply to the Judiciary.

This bill would require the Judiciary to implement technology or other record keeping procedures to deny access to a courthouse to any individual who is or appears to be seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law unless the individual presents a valid warrant. Other than for security purposes, court personnel do not routinely screen visitors entering courthouses or require proof of the reasons for their entry or review. Courthouses are public spaces and certain persons have a constitutional right to a public trial. To require the Judiciary to implement such procedures creates an operational concern and a strain on resources.

This bill could also require the Judiciary to implement technology or other record keeping procedures regarding requests from federal agents seeking access to MDEC or Secure Case Search to enforce federal immigration law. The Judiciary currently does not allow access to Secure Case Search by federal agencies. Requests from federal agencies

to the Judiciary would most likely be in the form of a request for access to MDEC or court records.

More concerning, however, is proposed Public Safety §3-529 (D) which states:

A Law Enforcement Agency Or A Unit Of State Or Local Government May Not Enter Into A Memorandum Of Understanding Or Similar Agreement That Requires Collaboration Or Information Sharing With A Federal Agency For The Purpose Of Enforcing Federal Immigration Law

The Judiciary has an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government for CJIS, whereby the Judiciary shares information with the federal government regarding criminal history records. The Judiciary does not have the ability to determine whether CJIS will be used for the purpose of enforcing immigration law by other governmental entities and, thus, it cannot know whether this existing MOU would put the Judiciary in violation of this provision.

cc. Hon. Clarence Lam
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor

SB0977-JPR_MACo_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: INFO



Senate Bill 977

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

MACo Position:

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Date: February 19, 2025

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) takes **NO POSITION** on **SB 977** but offers this **LETTER OF INFORMATION**. Counties do not take issue with the intent of the bill to protect the private information of an individual that is not legally required to be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or any other federal agency for that matter. SB 977 appears to make existing standards more stringent regarding the protection of information that shall be denied in an instance where immigration enforcement may or may not be the cause for the request. To that end, the challenges the bill presents are numerous and this letter of information is intended to add to the conversation as lawmakers consider next steps, if inclined to advance this bill. Broadly, county concerns touch on three areas which cover bookended penalties, perception of intent, and responsibility for fines.

The intersections of federal, state, and local immigration laws have been the subject of extended and nuanced debate across governments and the courts. The areas of concern cover constitutionality, enforcement, information handling, sanctuary policies, and court procedure to name just a few. Under more common circumstances, counties can appreciate that the letter of the law will not always foresee perfectly the contradiction, consequences, and potential new liabilities additional requirements can provoke in the courts. Unfortunately, the reality of the current political and policy climate around immigration presents a high likelihood that federal and State agencies are proactively and aggressively intending to hold even good faith actors accountable for errors. Any faltering, intentional or not, as these policies are rapidly evolving and competing has the potential to result in increased claims and significant disruption to local government workforces and functions.

Bookended Penalties

The bill creates a counter penalty in conjunction with penalties that currently exist under federal law, thus creating a scenario where an accidental violation is bookended with consequences regardless of the denial or disclosure of information. The area of SB 977 that

elicits the most urgent and immediate concern that could lead to penalties is the new language that says, "OR APPEARS TO BE seeking access for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law." This explicitly exposes local government employees to potential liability for making guesses in a necessarily gray area. It is important to note that these challenges will not only exist for official record custodians but any employees and managers across all divisions with access to an electronic database in a public or private area of a facility.

The consequence in its most basic form is that if an employee does not provide data, pending certain circumstances, they can be charged with a violation of federal law. If an employee does provide information because it didn't appear to be private or for the purpose of immigration enforcement, they could be subject to a \$1000 fine and, depending on how the bill is interpreted, also have their employment terminated. This illustrates that exposure to penalties is not limited to the circumstances outlined in SB 977 but is extended to both federal and state agencies. Without all employees understanding the exact nuances of the rapidly evolving intersections of local, state, and federal immigration law there will, very likely, be no way to avoid increased liability.

Perception of Intent

It is unclear how an employee of a county or state government could accurately perceive the intention and nature of a request to determine whether a request for data is going to be used for immigration. This is especially a concern in situations where the identification and expression of intent of an ICE agent is not required. This determination can also be complicated by the fact that law enforcement can misrepresent their intentions when making certain requests. The bill almost assumes a scenario where all information would be denied without a warrant. This is even more precarious when the information requested is required to be disclosed without a warrant.

As an example, this could be the case for a request of an I-9 document of an employee. When immigration enforcement agents work in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, the requirement to hand off I-9 information is mandatory, with or without notice or a warrant. An employee who fails to cooperate with federal law enforcement in this instance is likely to be found in violation of federal law. This could expose the employee to civil and/or criminal liability, if in the process of withholding, their refusal is misconstrued as a false statement to federal law enforcement or obstructing a federal investigation. This is particularly the case in instances where the employee's expression to withhold information is considered a misrepresentation of whether the record exists.

Responsibility for Fines

Another concern is the lack of clarity around the penalty provision. It is unclear who is subject to the \$1000 fine; specifically, whether it is the individual who is thought to have erroneously produced the data or the employer. To illustrate that concern, several interpretations are listed below:

- employee shall pay one fine for one violation
- employer shall pay one fine on behalf of the employee for one violation
- they both shall pay two separate fines for the same violation
- the employer shall pay two fines for one violation on behalf of the employee and employer

Any number of those scenarios is complicated by the potential that one conversation could lead to a denial or disclosure of multiple pieces of information. In those instances, it is unclear whether the federal- or state-level violation would constitute one or more penalties based on the number of records or pieces of information unlawfully shared or denied.

Conclusion

The question of how best to ensure that privacy is maintained for all employees and detainees of a local government is an important one to address. Due to the current and shifting guidance around immigration enforcement laws and regulations, SB 977 – without clarification – has the potential to further complicate an already difficult situation and fall short of its overall goal.

Local governments will continue to ensure standards remain high and appropriate compliance is managed. Counties look forward to continuing this important conversation, not just around SB 977, but as this issue evolves more broadly.