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Testimony in support of House Bill 1431

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

To: Hon. Luke Clippinger, chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

Date: February 25, 2025

We are writing in **support of House Bill 1431, 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.

HB1431 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 HB1431. 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