



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

House Judiciary Committee

March 24, 2025

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

Indivisible Howard County 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)**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 900 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents.

Everyone in our state, undocumented immigrants included, is entitled to privacy. But our data privacy protections have come under serious threat with increasing federal efforts to use public sources to identify, detain, and deport immigrants. The Maryland Data Privacy Act **SB 977** is designed to maintain data privacy 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.

Indivisible Howard County stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

- **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities and Protect personal information** without a valid court-issued warrant.
- **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly.
- **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties for noncompliance.**

This legislation benefits all Marylanders. It will protect our privacy of every resident and foster trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. By placing boundaries on 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 personal data. Indivisible Howard County calls upon the legislature to act again.

Indivisible Howard County **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 977.**