

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,

The Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) 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 Social Justice Committee of CJC of which I am chair has supported immigrant rights since the 1980s, specifically the Soviet Jewry cause. Since the first Trump presidency, our committee has been very involved with other civic organizations and interfaith efforts to help our immigrant neighbors, many of whom have fled intolerable conditions in their home countries, as my father did over 100 years ago. 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 and third-party data brokers, are prohibited from sharing personal information with governmental entities for the purposes of immigration enforcement unless a valid warrant is presented.

SB 977 provides critical safeguards against loopholes that entities can take advantage of to obtain personal immigration for the purposes of immigration enforcement. Data brokers hold tremendously detailed information about virtually every person in the country, including information about people's addresses, financial transactions, relationships, and detailed location from tracking people's phones and cars. 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 with the passage of the Driver Privacy Act, it did so again in 2024 with the passage of the Maryland Data Privacy Act (2024).¹² I once again call on this legislature to act to protect Marylander's data by providing a favorable report on SB 977.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Rubin, Chair Social Justice Committee, Columbia Jewish Congregation

¹ 2024 [Legislation - HB0567](#), [Legislation - SB0541](#)

² 2021, [Legislation - HB0023](#)