



**Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony**  
**HB1431 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access**  
**to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**  
**February 27, 2025**  
**SUPPORT**

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair; The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair; and Members of the Judiciary 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, supports HB1431. This bill would deny access to databases maintained by law enforcement and other state and local entities to any individual who is or appears to be accessing the database for immigration enforcement purposes, unless the individual has a warrant and clearly identifies the record they would like to access.

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 critical services they desperately need because of concerns about their immigration status. At a recent SNAP clinic for example, it was reported that every resident in attendance expressed concerns about what would happen to their personal information if they applied for food assistance. Policies, including the ones proposed in HB1431, can help to alleviate some of the fears people are experiencing and increase confidence in government entities. The alternative is that families could go without food assistance, housing support, child care assistance, and other services they 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 HB1431 and asks for the Committee's favorable report.