

**Testimony IN SUPPORT OF HB 1431-
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law -
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**

To: Delegate Luke Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Marilyn Carlisle
Date: February 27, 2025

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

I would like to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of **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, please give it a favorable report.

Thank you.

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