

Bill Title: State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law –
Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act) - HB1431 (SB977)
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judiciary Committee
Date: February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their concern for immigrant protections. QVM sees HB1431 as an urgent priority in response to increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement policies and state and local data vulnerabilities.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for HB1431.**

The 2021 Driver Privacy Act was a vital step, blocking U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from warrantless access to Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) data, but other state agencies still hold sensitive information that ICE could seize. HB1431 stops ICE from accessing state and local databases, records, or information without a valid warrant, ensuring that state data is not misused. The bill also requires state agencies to document all ICE access requests and report to the General Assembly and Attorney General, improving transparency and ensuring compliance with the law.

Maryland must act decisively to protect its residents’ privacy. Trust in government has eroded under aggressive federal enforcement policies. This bill reassures Marylanders that state agencies prioritize their safety and privacy. Without these additional protections, state-held personal data could inadvertently become available to ICE, breaking public trust, and placing our community at risk. Residents who are immigrants should be able to access critical government services without worrying that they will be discriminated against and that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. No one should be *afraid* to go to school, seek medical attention, or ask for assistance to feed their family.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. We request a FAVORABLE report for this important and emergency legislation.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

Organization email: quakervoice.md@gmail.com