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**Testimony in Support of HB1431
Omar Marroquin, President of the Parent Teacher Association
at Rolling Terrace Elementary School
February 25, 2025**

Good afternoon Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Omar Marroquin, and I'm President of the Parent Teacher Association for Rolling Terrace Elementary (RTES), a Title I, Two-Way Language Immersion School in Takoma Park. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1431 - Maryland Data Privacy Act, State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information.

Walking into RTES, you'll find flags from around the world lining the entrance representing the diverse makeup of our community. Spanish is the most common language you'll hear amongst families but you'll also hear Creole, Mam, and Amharic as you drop off and pick up your little ones. Diversity is embraced and celebrated in a way that brings pride and creates a safe space for our over 650 students to be themselves. But since the current administration entered the White House there is a fear amongst many of our families that is impossible to ignore.

Threats to deport as many individuals as possible from the white house have caused students to wonder if their parents are safe, if their best friends are safe, and if they themselves are safe. As PTA president, many of my conversations with parents have been around understanding where they are most at risk and how they should navigate this current landscape. Local and state governments must not share sensitive information relating to immigration status putting families at risk of losing parents and other important members of our community

We support HB1431 because it will help protect our families in need of protection from being targeted and hunted down in our most vulnerable moments and sensitive places.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill, and for your efforts to ensure every Maryland resident is safe. The Parent Teacher Association of Rolling Terrace Elementary School urges a favorable report on House Bill 1431.