

HB1431\_Louise Weissman\_FAV  
Hearing Date: February 27, 2025

Louise Weissman  
Greenbelt, 20770

**Testimony on HB#1431**

**Position: Favorable**

**State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on  
Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Louise Weissman

My name is Louise Weissman. I am a resident of Greenbelt in District 22. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB #1431 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

There is no doubt that there are legal and ethical implications of someone's personal information. This is because if personal data falls into the wrong hands, people could be harmed. Depending how data is managed can result in identity theft, discrimination or even physical harm. When personal data falls into the wrong hands, people can be harmed.

Although the Talmud was compiled around 1,500 years ago, and doesn't include explicit text dedicated to data privacy, the concept of not intruding is ingrained in Jewish law and ethics that can be applied to modern data privacy concerns. The Talmud provides guidelines for ideas like "hezek reiyah" which in Hebrew translates to "the prohibition of looking" as well as respecting personal boundaries. Data protection plays a pivotal role in ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data. Confidentiality of personal data is especially important in sensitive contexts such as child migration, sex/human trafficking or migrant smuggling, where identification of a data subject can have life-threatening risks

Access to sensitive data and facilities requires a valid court-issued warrant. Personal information cannot be shared with federal immigration authorities without due legal process. 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.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard sensitive data ICE sought from the MDVA. It is imperative for this legislature to act again to ensure that all MD agencies can participate in protecting immigrant data. Therefore, I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB#1431.