

Maureen Wambui

7827 Rolling View Ave, Nottingham, MD, 21236

Maureen.w.m.2030@gmail.com

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Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Testimony in Support of SB977 - Maryland Data Privacy Act**

Hearing Date: March 26th, 2025

Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Wambui, and I am a proud Immigrant, Parent, Community advocate and resident of Legislative District 8 in Maryland. I am submitting my testimony in **strong support of the Senate Bill 977, the Maryland Data Privacy Act**, I firmly believe that protecting personal data from unwarranted federal immigration enforcement is a fundamental issue of privacy, equity, and justice.

SB0977 is a necessary and urgent measure to ensure that the personal data of Maryland Immigrant residents is not improperly accessed or shared for federal immigration enforcement purposes. The misuse of state-held data to target immigrant communities erodes trust in public institutions, discourages individuals from seeking essential services, and creates an atmosphere of fear and discrimination. This bill will help restore confidence by limiting access to sensitive data and requiring transparency in any information requests.

Key provisions of SB0977, such as prohibiting unauthorized data sharing and eliminating information-sharing agreements with federal agencies, are essential to safeguarding the privacy of all Maryland residents. The bill's requirement for annual reporting on data access requests further strengthens accountability and ensures that our state agencies remain focused on serving and protecting all residents, regardless of immigration status.

Moreover, by preventing personal data from being exploited by private data brokers for immigration enforcement, Maryland takes a strong stance against the predatory use of information that disproportionately harms vulnerable communities. This legislation aligns with our state's commitment to fairness, safety, and civil rights.

I urge this committee to pass SB0977 without hesitation. Maryland must lead the way in protecting personal information and upholding the rights of its residents. I respectfully ask for your full support of this bill and for its swift advancement through the legislative process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Wambui.