

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

House Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

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

Kevin James is pleased 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).**

At this very moment ICE agents are racially profiling Latin American immigrant neighborhoods and detaining people only to find out that they're citizens. If racial profiling violates due process but agents are doing it anyway, then it stands to reason they'll abuse access to private data unless it's protected.

Part of the reason warrants exist is to ensure people are protected by due process. Most of this country's history is replete with violations of due process for Black people and other people of color. As the late historian Howard Zinn said, "This has been a slave owning country longer than it's been a free one." Given this history, protections to ensure due process is protected must be implemented.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act, HB1431, 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.

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. By clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state, we promote the values of dignity, safety, and fairness.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. I, once again, call on this legislature to act.<sup>1</sup>

**I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1431.**

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<sup>1</sup>[2021. MGA HB23](#)