

TESTIMONY FOR HB1431

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

Presented to the Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

FAVORABLE

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

My name is Daniel Golombek, and I am resident of district 11B. I am writing in strong support of HB1431 (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

I am appalled and extremely worried at the prospect of federal immigration authorities' unauthorized access and misuse of personal data collected by our state and local agencies and paid for by our tax dollars. This bill addresses these concerns as it aims to protect the privacy of Maryland residents by restricting state and local agencies from providing access to photographs, facial recognition technology, databases, facilities, or buildings to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without proper legal authorization. It will ensure that personal data is not used for federal immigration enforcement without a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court and requires the Maryland Attorney General to enforce its provisions.

By limiting access to personal data, the bill helps prevent the potential misuse of information and protects residents from unwarranted federal immigration enforcement actions. This is particularly significant for our immigrant communities, as it provides an additional layer of protection and promotes trust in state and local agencies. The bill ensures that personal data remains safeguarded, fostering a sense of security and privacy for all Maryland residents.

As HB1431 aligns with Maryland's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of its residents, I support this bill and similar initiatives that protect all Marylanders' privacy and security and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Thank you.

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