

Maureen Wambui

7827 Rolling View Ave

Nottingham, MD, 21236

Maureen.w.m.2030@gmail.com

02/25/2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee

Maryland General Assembly

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1431 – Maryland Data Privacy Act

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1431, the Maryland Data Privacy Act, which seeks to protect the personal information of Maryland residents, particularly immigrant communities, by preventing unauthorized access and use of state-held data for federal immigration enforcement. As an advocate for immigrant rights and community trust, I believe this bill is essential in ensuring privacy, safety, and fairness for all residents of Maryland.

This bill is crucial because it:

- **Protects Personal Data** – Ensures that sensitive state-held information, such as DMV records and government databases, is not misused for immigration enforcement purposes.
- **Prevents Unjust Targeting** – Stops state agencies from sharing data that could lead to wrongful detentions or deportations.
- **Encourages Trust in Local Institutions** – Immigrants will feel safer seeking healthcare, education, and law enforcement assistance without the fear of being reported to immigration authorities.
- **Holds State Employees Accountable** – Ensures that government officials face consequences if they improperly share protected personal data.

Maryland has long been a leader in fostering inclusivity and protecting the rights of all its residents. By passing HB1431, the state will take a necessary step in ensuring that personal data is used responsibly and that immigrant communities can engage with public services without fear. I strongly urge you to support this bill and uphold Maryland's commitment to privacy and justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maureen Wambui