



Odette Ramos

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**SB 977 - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information
(Maryland Data Privacy Act)**

March 24, 2025

FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to urge your support of **SB 977 Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**.

The objective of this bill is to prohibit and restrict state and local governments from sharing sensitive information and records for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law.

According to the American Immigration Council in 2016, around 29 percent of Maryland's population consisted of undocumented immigrants. In Baltimore City, there are approximately 135,600 people who are undocumented (Vera Institute of Justice, n.d.). Allowing for sensitive information to be shared for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law jeopardizes the livelihoods and safety of our immigrant population. Immigrants are integral to the fabric of our city. We cannot allow for records and databases containing sensitive information of our vulnerable community members to be compromised.

It is crucial that SB 977 passes to protect the sensitive information of individuals whose information may be collected when receiving necessary services such as at a hospital, educational institutions, or through non-profit organizations. The uncertainty created by the new administration's immigration policies make it imperative to advocate for our immigrant community. We must be steadfast in our commitment to securing the information of every citizen.

I implore you all to pass a favorable report for SB 977.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at: 410-396-3814 or by email at: odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Odette' followed by a stylized surname.

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 14