

## 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,

My name is Franca Muller Paz, I am a Baltimore City Resident and member of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I am 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).**

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.

As a teacher, I believe it is critical that students and families know that their information across the state of Maryland is safe. Otherwise, we could see many families fearful of participating or giving their information to critical entities, like schools, hospitals, and more. We all have a right to privacy. We should know that when we give our information over for an official purpose, that information is safe, and that unless an official entity has a warrant, that information will not be released. Especially as a woman, I want to know that my sensitive personal information will be protected and not easily shared to anyone who does not need to see it.

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, once again I ask the legislature to act.<sup>1</sup>

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

**Franca Muller Paz**

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