
Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 977

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

House Judiciary Committee

March 24, 2025

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

My name is Michelle Mazurek and I live in Silver Spring, in District 20. I write to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB977 - State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).**

As a computer science professor who has spent 15 years researching digital security and privacy, I study professionally the importance of privacy rights to healthy societies, and the detrimental chilling effects that privacy violations can have on communities and individuals. Specifically in the case of immigrant communities in Maryland, erosion of data privacy protections has increased fear and uncertainty, and inhibited community members from working with state agencies that provide vital services.

I have seen these effects firsthand, not just as a privacy professional, but as a neighbor and a mom. My daughter's elementary school has a large population of immigrants and children of immigrants, and I know the fear that immigrant families are living with, which impacts people's willingness to send their children to school as well as their ability to access food assistance, social services, and medical care. It is heartbreaking to see these effects in my community.

Further, as the granddaughter of immigrants, refugees, and Holocaust survivors, I benefited from the lives my grandparents were able to build in the U.S. They started their lives over, starting with almost nothing, in the 1940s and 50s. Today's immigrants deserve the same chance to build new lives here, raise their families, and contribute to our community, and they deserve to do so without fear.

SB 977 provides critical safeguards against loopholes that entities can take advantage of to obtain personal immigration for the purposes of immigration enforcement. Data brokers hold tremendously detailed information about virtually every person in the country, including information about people's addresses, financial transactions, relationships, and detailed location from tracking people's phones and cars. Data brokers are largely unregulated and aggregate and make all of this sensitive information available for purchase. Immigration authorities are able to simply buy it without any court oversight or transparency, circumventing due process and accountability. For example, researchers have uncovered ICE's purchase of detailed cell phone location information and phone, water, electricity, and other utility records.¹

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data with the passage

¹ [New Records Detail DHS Purchase and Use of Vast Quantities of Cell Phone Location Data | ACLU](#)

of the Driver Privacy Act, it did so again in 2024 with the passage of the Maryland Data Privacy Act (2024).²³ I once again call on this legislature to act to protect Marylanders' data.

With my **strongest conviction, I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB977.**

² 2024 [Legislation - HB0567](#), [Legislation - SB0541](#)

³ 2021, [Legislation - HB0023](#)