

Dominique Lee

202-823-9456

16040 English Oaks Ave, Bowie, MD 20716

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 Dominique Lee and today I am reaching out 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).**

As human beings, it is our natural instinct to protect ourselves. However, when we are in survival mode, our body takes over and we are more prone to making rash decisions. When we allow federal immigration officers to access personal data, we are sowing fear into our communities, especially among immigrant communities. When people are afraid, they are more likely to do whatever is necessary to keep themselves safe. Again, this is a natural part of who we are. If we want to keep our communities safe, we should not be allowing federal immigration officers access to sensitive data and facilities without a valid court-issued warrant.

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.

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. I once again call on this legislature to act.¹

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

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)