



HB1431

**TO:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Latino Racial Justice Circle

**RE:** Maryland Data Privacy Act HB1431

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Latino Racial Justice Circle is 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)**. Founded in October 2015, The Latino Racial Justice Circle is a community-based nonprofit organization that does not deliver direct services to individuals. Instead, we raise funds to assist families with viable pathways for immigration relief, pay for legal representation, and give small scholarships to college students who are ineligible for federal financial aid. Additionally, we facilitate conversations on immigration and civic engagement.

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.

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. The Latino Racial Justice Circle, once again calls on this legislature to act.<sup>1</sup>

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