



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

Favorable

House Judiciary Committee

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Honorable Chairman Clippinger & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

SEIU Local 500, as one of Maryland's largest public sector unions representing over 23,000 workers, expresses our support for Senate Bill 977, the **Maryland Data Privacy Act**. This bill is essential to protecting the privacy of Maryland residents by restricting access to personal information and ensuring that state and local agencies do not share sensitive data for federal immigration enforcement purposes without a valid warrant.

In an era where personal data is increasingly vulnerable, SB 977 sets critical safeguards to prevent unauthorized or unwarranted access to information held by public agencies. The bill ensures that state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as other government entities, cannot disclose personal information, grant access to databases, or share records for immigration enforcement purposes unless required by a judicially authorized warrant. These measures are necessary to uphold Maryland's commitment to privacy, public trust, and the fair treatment of all residents.

Additionally, the bill mandates accountability by requiring agencies to maintain records of access requests and report this information annually to the Attorney General and the General Assembly. This transparency is key to ensuring compliance and reinforcing public confidence in the state's data protection efforts.

SB 977 is not just about protecting data; it is about protecting people. Immigrant communities in Maryland should be able to access public services, interact with law enforcement, and go about their daily lives without fear that their information could be used against them unfairly. This bill aligns Maryland with best practices in data privacy and human rights, ensuring that our state remains a place of safety and opportunity for all.

We thank Senator Lam for his leadership on this issue and ask you to pass this bill out of committee with a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.