

HB1431_AnnRubin_FWA
Feb. 25, 2025
Columbia, MD 21045
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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 House Judiciary Committee,

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).**

I am Co-chair of the Howard County Indivisible Immigration Action Team and in that capacity I have come to understand some of the many issues facing undocumented people. Undergirding my belief in social justice are my Jewish values of caring for and befriending the ‘stranger’ because my people were strangers in many lands and at many times in history.

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

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

¹[2021. MGA HB23](#)