

**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,

**Below you will find my 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).**

The speed of technological advances has led to new dangers -- others can obtain data about us that we thought was private. There is general consensus that people should be able to control their own data and decide who sees it. However, the current administration has shown its blatant disregard for data privacy. We need to take immediate action to prevent unwanted intrusions on our privacy.

The current administration is attempting to wrest data out of state and local governments to further its attack on immigrants. The Maryland Data Privacy Act, HB1431, ensures that state and local agencies, as well as law enforcement, are prohibited from sharing personal information, facial recognition data, and access to public facilities with federal immigration authorities unless a valid judicial warrant is presented.

Although I am not an immigrant, I feel personally threatened by the administration's aggressive data grab. What makes us think that once they get access to immigrants' data they will stop at that? We need to hold the line for the sake of all Maryland residents.

This bill is not asking Maryland to take an extreme position. 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 making clear boundaries for 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. It is time once again for the legislature to take action.

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