



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,

Indivisible Howard County 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)**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 900 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents.

Everyone in Maryland, undocumented immigrants included, is entitled to privacy. But our data privacy protections have come under serious threat with increasing federal efforts to use public sources to identify, detain, and deport immigrants.

In 2021 the Maryland Legislature passed the Driver Privacy Act blocking ICE from access to MVA data without a judicial warrant. The Maryland Data Privacy Act HB 1431 is designed to safeguard personal data in other public databases.

Indivisible Howard County stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

- **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities and Protect personal information** without a valid court-issued warrant
- **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly
- **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties for noncompliance.**

This legislation benefits all Marylanders. It will protect the privacy of every resident and foster trust between immigrant communities and public institutions.

Indivisible Howard County **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1431.**