



Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1 North Charles Street  
Suite 2305 | Baltimore, MD 21201

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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 Committee,

Amica Center for Immigrant Rights (Amica Center) 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).**

The Amica Center is a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal defense services to community members detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Maryland and the DMV area. Our organization has specialized in detained removal defense legal services for the past 25 years. We are leaders in creating systemic changes in the immigration system for the benefit of vulnerable non-citizen community members.

We see every day the impact that ICE detention has on a person, their family and their community. It is a devastating, terrifying and fundamentally destabilizing moment for impacted individuals. ICE detention has ripple effects beyond the harm caused to the directly impacted person. It also has impacts on the emotional and financial stability of families whose spouse or parent is taken from them. Protecting the data privacy of our immigrant community members who are vulnerable to ICE arrest and deportation is critical to preventing family separation and potential expulsion from home and community.

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



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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.

Amica Center clients would greatly benefit from this bill. It would be one safeguard in the face of expanded and aggressive ICE activities targeting Marylanders. It would foster an environment where people feel safe to engage our public institutions without fear of their identifying information and home address becoming accessible to ICE. In the face of a wave of federal policy changes targeting our immigrant communities, this bill would provide critical protections.

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. Amica Center once again calls on this legislature to act.

**Amica Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1431.**

Sincerely,

Eric Lopez  
Deputy Program Director  
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights  
1 N. Charles Street, Suite 2305  
Baltimore, MD 21202