

**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,

Marjorie Simon 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).**

I am a resident of District 11B. Along with others from my synagogue, Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools, I have been helping to resettle Afghan newcomers since February 2022. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1431- State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act).

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.

The family I am helping has supplied personal information when applying for government services for which they are eligible such as Medicaid and public library cards. They should not feel they are putting themselves at risk by sharing this information with government agencies. Thanks to the 2021 Driver Privacy Act, they did not have those concerns when applying for a driver's license or Maryland State ID. We should all have the same protections for data privacy regardless of the state or local agency with which we are interacting.

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