

**Testimony on House Bill 711 – Favorable  
HB711 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, & Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)  
Economic Matters Committee**

February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Montgomery, and I am a resident and community member from Olney, Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB711 – the Data Privacy Act.

I personally care about this issue because I am deeply concerned about the manner in which information is being weaponized and used against law abiding individuals who have immigrated to the United States from other countries. Information from court summons is being used to detain lawfully present individuals attending their regularly scheduled immigration check-in hearings. Video surveillance of our roads are being utilized to pick up hardworking employees, while traveling to work or on their way home to their family. I find this deeply unsettling, as I have naturalized citizens in my own family and my community is comprised of beloved individuals who meaningfully contribute to the fabric of my church, school, local economy, and daily life. What was once private, protected information is now being weaponized, to enable tax-payer funded federal agents to kidnap, abduct, and transport our Maryland residents far away from the reach of family, friends, community, and legal counsel.

I **support HB711** because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families. For instance, a close family friend operates a construction and landscaping business and counsels his workers to no longer travel along certain roads or frequent certain stores to buy supplies, and no longer takes lucrative business contracts in certain areas, not because his workers status is in question, but because there are reports that video surveillance is being utilized in those areas to racially profile, kidnap, abduct, and transport our community members to fulfill detention and detainment quotas, rather than engage in targeted law enforcement of criminals.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery.