

Testimony on House Bill 711 – Favorable

HB711 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Economic Matters Committee

February 20, 2026

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

My name is Robin Zwier and I am a constituent living in Parkville, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB711 – the Data Privacy Act.

At this point, no citizen of this country can feel safe knowing that data is being sent to ICE that allows them to more easily locate and identify us. Whether we are undocumented, legal residents, green card holders, or U.S. citizens, ICE has made it clear that they are not beholden to the law and will take acts of violence against any of us who disagree with their mission.

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.

ICE enforcement in our communities is causing immigrants, people of color, and others who do not support ICE's mission to distrust our institutions, to be cut off from needed resources and supports, and causing an unimaginable level of stress, harm, and trauma. One easy step we can take to reduce these harms is to ensure that sensitive personal data is not funneled to ICE to make their jobs easier.

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,

Robin Zwier