

Testimony on House Bill 711 – Favorable

HB711 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and 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 Juliet Brown, and I am a resident in St. Mary's County, Maryland. **I am writing in support of HB711 – the Data Privacy Act.**

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.

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.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Juliet Brown
St. Mary's County, MD