



Testimony for HB 711

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

Position: FAVORABLE

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Maryland/DC. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in Maryland/DC. Our union supports HB 711 and urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

The Data Privacy Act will ensure personal information is not sold for the purpose of immigration enforcement. 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 information sharing with federal immigration enforcement, we promote our values of dignity, safety, and fairness.

It has become clear that the Trump administration is seeking personally identifiable data from state Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, program agencies and localities running state-funded programs as well. Using and sharing this information is against the law, and it's important that Maryland establish additional guardrails to prevent this practice.

1199SEIU believes immigrants should not be living in fear of how their personal information will be shared with immigration enforcement authorities. This legislation will sensibly ensure our custodians of public records are taking reasonable steps to protect the privacy of Marylanders. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 711.