

HB0711 - SUPPORT
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HB0711– Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

House Economic Matters Committee
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Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee:

My name is William Mascioli. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy and values posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to strongly support HB 0711, an essential complement to HB 0264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026.

Our data have become potential instruments of control that must be safeguarded. HB 0264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026, would impose important safeguards on the collection and retention of personal information by units of State government. While HB0264 would protect the selling of personal data gathered by the state, HB0711 protects *consumer data* from being sold to the most lawless security force in U.S. history.

We live in a time when a lawless agency of the federal government has made multimillion dollar contracts with third-party data brokers such as Lexis-Nexus, Palantir, Equifax, and even the spyware producer Paragon, all in an effort to satisfy Stephen Miller’s insatiable appetite for deportations.

These companies are now making huge profits by selling access to their massive databases of personal information.

As members of this body are well aware, ICE behaves as a law unto itself. Unidentified masked agents terrorize our communities with no regard for basic protections such as due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

ICE’s “rapists and murderers” incantations fool no one. ICE chooses its targets using classic racial and employment profiling. They are even targeting law-abiding immigrants attending their court hearings. This is not a strategy to protect public safety. This is ethnic cleansing.

Nor is it only immigrants (and people who look like they might be immigrants) who are being targeted. ICE is actively collecting data on U.S. citizens like my neighbors and me at North Woodside Civil Resistance who are objecting to the misconduct of this rogue federal agency.

ICE agents' actions are a threat to our basic democratic freedoms. We do not need to make their job easier. Tightening up our private data protections with Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System and the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act would be two steps in the right direction. Accordingly, I urge a favorable report on HB0711 and thank you for your consideration.