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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0711 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

2/10/2026

TO: Chair Kriselda Valderrama & Members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Members of the Economic Matters Committee, my name is Ayla, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0711, part of the Data Privacy Act.

Working in information technology, we strive to be diligent in our account security - don't write your passwords down on a sticky note on your monitor, don't share your passwords with anyone, use a password manager, etc. But none of that will matter if companies are selling our data to anyone willing to pay for it. As "cyberpunk dystopia" as that sounds, it happens every day. The website [haveibeenpwned.com](https://haveibeenpwned.com) indicates that 17,431,283,012 accounts have been hacked - I would bet that yours, committee members, and mine, are included. But who needs to hack your account to get your information when all of our data are commodities to be bought and sold.

My community in Columbia recently had "cop carts" out by a playground and in some parking lots. Those private companies now have video footage of the license plate numbers, the faces of children, and every one of our neighbors shopping in the area. We urged our community board to remove them, because even if the company "promises" in good faith not to sell that data - one password on a sticky note and all those kids' faces are sent to god knows where. We can't always prevent bad actors, so let's at least make the *purposeful selling* of this data prohibited in our state!

I urge you to support HB 0711 and help protect us from unnecessary privacy violations by private companies just looking to make bank, lest liberty and justice for all be further lost.