



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**HB 0711 Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System
Economic Matters Committee, February 24, 2026
SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs, with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **HB 0711 Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**. We support the Data Privacy Act because it is critical for the protection of Marylanders' sensitive data from unwarranted federal surveillance.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has [greatly expanded its ability to collect, retain, and analyze information](#) about people living inside the United States. DHS law enforcement agencies are responsible for *civil* immigration enforcement, so the expanded collection and use of personal data is unlawful mission creep that endangers civil liberties with [deadly results](#).

The Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the United States Border Patrol (USBP) have already shown they cannot be trusted with the private data of people living in the United States. Both are using personal data information toward a dragnet-style deportation of noncitizens and to [identify and investigate U.S. citizens](#). Both have repeatedly [lied to the American people](#) when the truth doesn't suit their narrative and are [using private data to intimidate observers and activists](#).

The Data Privacy Act would affirm Maryland's commitment to civil liberties, privacy, and community trust by establishing barriers to DHS access to private data. The personal data Marylanders have shared with state and local agencies was never intended to serve a federal government that is separating families and [deporting parents who have no idea where their children are located](#). It would protect Maryland jurisdictions that have adopted policies of trust and care within communities and that have prohibited cooperation with DHS and its components. The Data Privacy Act would protect all Marylanders from unwarranted surveillance by the federal authorities, telling ICE and USBP that Maryland won't stand for DHS's expanded mission that is contrary to the ideals we hold true as Americans.

WDC applauds the sponsors of HB 0711, the Data Privacy Act. We ask for your support for HB 0711 and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair