

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 Dr. Robert Spear, and I am a resident of Swanton, Maryland in Garrett County. I am writing in support of **HB711 – the Data Privacy Act**.

The time has come for citizens and states to stop cooperating with the Federal Government, full stop. Maryland has always given more to the Federal Government than Maryland receives from the Federal Government, not just as a net donor state, but also in loyalty and service.

Remember, we stayed in the Union in 1861, though a heated debate on that issue took place. In return, we have been proud of our President, Congress, and courts, the beacon of democracy, the light of the world. Under Trump and the Republicans, the goodwill between the Feds and Maryland has ended. Our common purpose has ended. We get nothing but shit from them, and we owe them nothing in return. The entire Federal shit-show is nothing but an embarrassment, no longer a matter of pride. I am still glad to be an American, but until the Feds return to the ideals of this country, our cooperation with them must be held in abeyance.

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.

ICE needs to be eliminated, and many of its officers from the top down need to be prosecuted for crimes against humanity, violations of criminal law, and acts against the Constitution. I agree with the mission but not the philosophy that informs their decisions. We do need to protect our borders and manage immigration in a fair and humane way, but mistreatment of many in order to nab a few is not the way to do it. It's time to start over.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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