

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 Jean Cavanaugh, and I live in Frederick MD. I am writing in support of **HB711 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I oppose the U.S. becoming a surveillance state that uses data collected from the state and third parties to detain/disappear certain groups of people, with immigrants being targeted right now. Maryland cannot be complicit in feeding people who live here into DHS' constitutional and human rights-violating detention/disappearance/deportation machine. Maryland cannot support the trump administration's manufactured and sudden "illegal" status of most refugees, asylum seekers, some green card holders, those with work permits, and others with previously legal statuses.

Maryland privacy laws are not now strong enough to protect sensitive personal information from being collected and funneled to DHS agencies. I fear, though, that like the new legislation banning 287g agreements, this legislation won't be enough to protect individuals who are targeted by the cruel and corrupt trump administration. But we have to do something, start somewhere.

Please vote favorably for HB 711.

Thank you,

Jean Cavanaugh

Frederick, MD