

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of HB711, the Data Privacy Act.**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services or cooperate with any kind of authority. All of us are harmed when large groups of people are afraid to participate in our society. A society rooted in fear, secrecy, and surreptitious dealings is exactly what so many of our ancestors left behind when they came to America.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of HB711, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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