

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing **in support of HB711 – the Data Privacy Act.**

Our state has worked to preserve the fundamental rights of its residents and to protect their sensitive data. We applaud MGA for passing the Public Safety Section of 2021 Driver Privacy Protection Act, the Maryland Public Information Act and the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act. Loopholes exist, however, and in the spirit in which those bills were passed, it is imperative to close those loopholes.

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 safety 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 and trust is impaired. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

We want Marylanders to maintain trust in our state government and state agencies. That is important for public safety and state accountability. Please do your part by issuing a favorable report on HB711.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Girdner