

Testimony on House Bill 711 - Favorable

Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Economic Matters Committee

February 24, 2026

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

I, **Cynthia Sokolow** of Howard County Maryland, am writing in **support of HB 711**, The Data Privacy Act.

On my mother's side, I am a fifth generation Marylander, but my father was a Holocaust survivor. He was able to escape Nazi-occupied Austria, however, his parents were not, and eventually perished in the renown death camp Treblinka.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Nazis used data processing technologies to manage population records. This enabled them to identify and target Jews and others. The absence of data privacy resulted in the persecution and death of millions of innocent European men, women and children.

Maryland should never be like a Nazi-occupied territory. But current loopholes in our state's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies be turned over to ICE agents through various networks.

I believe ICE will target anyone in Maryland who doesn't look American. Soon enough ICE will expand their research to include Jews, Muslims, Asians and more. Eventually anyone who disagrees with the current United States administration will be added to that list. You and I and our families are not exempt.

HB 711 will prevent third parties from sharing driver data with ICE. It is up to our state lawmakers and agencies to protect all Marylanders from our personal data falling into the wrong hands. We are entering a crisis. It is not too late to ensure our safety.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 711.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow
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