



**Testimony on House Bill 711-Favorable
HB711- Data Privacy-Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching Systems
(Data Privacy Act)**

Economic Matters Committee

February 24, 2026

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

IndivisibleHoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of **HB711-Data Privacy-Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching Systems (Data Privacy Act)**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

Every Maryland resident deserves the right to privacy and freedom from government and other agency surveillance. SB504 is designed to protect all of us from intrusive, unwarranted, and most certainly unwanted encroachment into our online presence.

Current Maryland law does not prevent third-party brokers from buying personal information collected by state agencies and selling that information to ICE and other federal agencies who will use it to facilitate deportation. This practice is contrary to Maryland's commitment to fairness and privacy. It also sets a dangerous precedent for giving the government access to anyone's personal data for any purpose at all.

HB711 closes this loophole and ensures that Maryland residents' private information is not for sale to any government agency and most specifically not to ICE.

Maryland has just banned 287g agreements statewide. Several counties have passed legislation to prevent development of private ICE detention centers and to prohibit public employees from sharing information about immigrants with ICE. **HB711** is another way that our state can protect immigrants from detention and deportation.

According to the Comptroller of Maryland's 2024 State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy,

(<https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/reports/research/immigration-on-economy.pdf>) immigrants have contributed to our population growth and bolstered our economy. Immigrants in Maryland make up over 50% of the workforce in several occupations including home health aides, taxi drivers, housekeepers, and carpenters. They also make up 23% of the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce and 23% of registered nurses in Maryland (American Immigration Council. (2021). *Immigrants in Maryland*. American Immigration Council. <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/maryland/>)

Immigrants are essential and valued members of our population. We owe them support and protection. IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711**.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD
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