

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 Kathy Shulman, and I am a resident of Baltimore City (D43) and am a volunteer leader with Indivisible Baltimore. I am writing in support of **HB711 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I do not want my private information or that of any of my neighbors to be unjustly shared with any law enforcement agency without my or my neighbors' consent.

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 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—not just immigrants. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shulman, Co-Lead, Immigration Rights Working Group, Indivisible Baltimore
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Indivisible Baltimore is a unified coalition of diverse Baltimore residents who aim to connect, build, and support our community to uphold democracy, justice, and human dignity. We hold local, state and national leaders accountable, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening democratic participation. Through empathy, education, and nonviolent resistance, we build bridges across political and social divides—because real change happens when we listen, learn, and act together. To date, we represent more than 2300 Baltimore City residents.