



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB711

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,

The National Domestic Workers Alliance is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of HB711.**

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win the respect, recognition, and labor rights of the nearly 2.5 million domestic workers—nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers—who play a crucial role in caring for our families and homes. Domestic workers perform vital tasks that enable all other work to happen. They are the caregivers who look after our children, the cleaners who maintain our homes, and the care providers who help our loved ones live with dignity and independence. While the National Domestic Workers Alliance is a national organization, our DMV chapter is a local, membership-based organization covering the geographical area of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most domestic workers are at the heart of some of the nation's most significant issues due to their identities and roles: they are primarily women—many of whom are women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage earners. Their lives are directly impacted by policies that shape the future of our economy, democracy, and society. And unfortunately, right now, many domestic workers are facing uncertainty and fear due to the federal attacks on immigrant communities.

We are hearing from many of our immigrant members in Maryland that they are living in fear daily. Many of our members have lived here for multiple decades without a path to a legal status. They have had children that were born in this country, they have taken care of other families through their professions- yet, now they feel more vulnerable than ever due to their immigration statuses.

At its core, HB711 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, **NDWA DMV Chapter** urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB711**.