

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 Sara D. Ryan, and I am a Frederick County resident in Maryland. I am writing in
support of HB711 – the Data Privacy Act.

I currently have to monitor my privacy carefully due to data breaches at a University I
attended. It is unsettling.

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.

I do not want to live in a community where neighbors are turning in neighbors. Nor do I want
innocent people to be hurt by data breaches caused by human error. In addition, I do not
want Maryland to be complicit with the cruel practices currently being employed by ICE.
Let's not make it easier for ICE to hurt people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB711.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara D. Ryan, 6420 Jefferson Boulevard, Frederick, MD 21703