

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2026

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TESTIMONY ON HB 711 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 711, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).

I moved to Montgomery County in 2014 when I retired. My support of this legislation comes from my belief in Jewish values. *Tikkun Olam* is an obligation to make the world a better place for everyone and *Dei Machsoro* means we must make certain that everyone has what they need to both live and thrive.

I support HB 711 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data, collected by state agencies, to be shared with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This allows our state agencies to undermine community trust by serving as a conduit for federal immigration enforcement.

In the past year, we have seen ICE agents abuse their authority, use excessive force, and ignore the requirement that they obtain judicial warrants. I have seen videos of people being pulled from their cars in front of their children, pulled out of their homes unclothed, and taken off the street while commuting to their jobs. ICE has bullied, beaten and killed US residents. I do not want to share information with federal agents who flagrantly violate the law.

This bill closes the loopholes in our current laws by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping record requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure that Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is

misused, everyone's privacy is at risk –not just immigrants' privacy. State agencies should function as a shield for its residents, not a pipeline for ICE to harm them.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 711, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).