

Testimony on Senate Bill 504– Favorable

SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

Indivisible Baltimore County offers favorable testimony in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Indivisible Baltimore County is one of thousands of Indivisible groups across the country taking action to build grassroots power and fight for a truly inclusive democracy.

At its core, SB504 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.

Indivisible Baltimore County advocated for County House Bill 98-25: Protections for Non- U.S. Citizens, following widespread community concern due to the removal of the county's sanctuary status. 98-25 clarified that county personnel will not engage in civil immigration enforcement beyond what is legally required, ensuring that all residents can safely interact with local government. Data privacy was included within that legislation, and aligns with Senate Bill 504.

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.

Closing driver data loopholes, as proposed in Senate Bill 504, would reduce fear, strengthen trust in public systems, and ensure that our communities can safely access the protections and services they are entitled to.

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, **Indivisible Baltimore County** urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Blalock, Steering Committee
Indivisible Baltimore County
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