

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2026
Julie Robin Solomon
Baltimore City, Maryland 21231

TESTIMONY ON SB#0504 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Full Bill Name: Data Privacy–Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

TO: Chair, Del. Pamela Beidle; Vice Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes; and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Julie Robin Solomon

My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in favor of #SB0504.

I have resided in Baltimore City for 39 years. I belong to the ACLU, Casa, and Indivisible Baltimore. I strongly urge the Committee to pass SB#0504--The Data Privacy Act. This Act is essential to ensuring that all Marylanders, particularly those from historically disenfranchised communities, have their personal information secured from misuse by state or government agencies. During this era, when the Trump administration is using ICE and CPB as a fascistic militia, we must make sure that all our community members, including vulnerable populations in our community have their data privacy protected. It is our duty as Marylanders to stand up for the most vulnerable in our community. That is what democracy means--safeguarding the total populace.

As a longtime Baltimore City Resident, I have personally witnessed how police and the sheriff's department (in the past) have used privacy data to harass African-American and Latino city residents alike. I have an African American son and African-American grandchildren and godchildren. My factotum is Latina. I want to make sure that their data is protected. As our Federal Government becomes more racist and aggressive in its fascistic policing practices, our state must take a lead in ensuring that our data is secure. SB#0504 is a good start to achieve this. I thank you all for your hard and well-considered work and respectfully urge Committee members to vote in favor of SB#0504 (Data Privacy–Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System [Data Privacy Act]), which will prevent the selling or sharing of personal consumer data with the federal government for immigration purposes.