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TESTIMONY FOR SB0504

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of SB0504** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

Current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow third parties to collect and sell sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). SB0504 would prohibit third parties from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement. It would require a custodian of a public record to take reasonable steps to determine whether a public record is accessed for enforcing immigration law. This bill protects geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. As a community member who has seen my immigrant neighbors pull their children out of school, avoid medical appointments, and refuse to renew their Medicaid registration out of fear of being hunted down through public records and wrongfully deported, I understand the raw fear these loopholes can cause. For these reasons, IBBMD urges that you support SB0504 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.