

Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable
SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching
System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Franca Muller Paz. I am a resident of District 46, a teacher at Baltimore City College, and I am here as a representative of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I am speaking in support of **HB711 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Marylanders understand that we are protected from warrantless arrests in our homes. The deep knowledge of our constitutional rights is a testament to our strength as a state.

As the number of immigration detentions in cars grows and grows, it seems that in response to the difficulty of targeting homes, ICE is now focused on exploiting vulnerabilities in our state privacy laws to target vehicles instead. *Many of the targeted drivers are just going to work or taking care of their family.

Just before Thanksgiving a student contacted me pleading for help. She has given me permission to share her message from that day. She wrote, "my father was on his way to pick me up to attend an open house for MICA. I checked his location and saw he was on a bridge for about 15 minutes. Then I received a call from my mom. She told me "wake your sister up, I think ICE detained your dad."

We rushed out of the house and got to the location it said he was at. When we got there, we saw his work truck and the window from the passenger seat was completely broken. He wasn't there, only his truck. We searched for his phone and found it in the middle of the road. We checked his camera roll and saw that he recorded a video. In it we can clearly see the ICE agent smashing his window. My dad tried his best to record, but since he was scared he dropped the phone. But you can hear the ICE agent mocking my dad and laughing at him. My dad asked "could you give me something. I'm bleeding. You did this to me." The agent laughed at him and said "no - you did this to yourself." He then grabbed my dad's phone and threw it in the middle of the road.

The sheer number of stories of our non-citizen community members being stopped in their cars tells me that their license plate data is being used to target and terrorize them.

HB711 is a commonsense reform that ensures Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose and close loopholes present through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers.

Maryland must not be complicit in ICE's desire to use our data to perpetuate violence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Franca Muller Paz
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