

**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,

My name is Vanessa Deutschmann, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I am personally connected with individuals living in Maryland with *full legal status* to be in the United States who feel so insecure due to the recent aggressive and extrajudicial tactics of ICE that they live in fear of living their lives freely, such as going to the grocery store. I want to tell them they are overreacting – but I cannot in good conscience say that. We must take all actions possible to restore this badly broken trust.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

A community that cannot trust its law enforcement officials to act in support of our constitutional rights and those of our neighbors is in grave danger. This does not have to be a threat to us in Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Deutschmann
Columbia, MD