



Testimony - SB 504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message
Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Favorable

Senate Finance Committee

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Honorable Chairwoman Beidle & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents thousands of public service, education, and higher education workers across Maryland, many of whom are entrusted with sensitive personal information in the course of their work. Senate Bill 504 provides essential safeguards to ensure that personal data held by private entities and public agencies is not misused, sold, or weaponized—particularly for immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant.

This legislation strengthens Maryland’s data privacy framework by limiting the sale and misuse of sensitive personal data, reinforcing protections around public records, and placing clear guardrails on the use of databases, message switching systems, and facial recognition technology. These protections are critical not only for consumer privacy, but also for worker safety and public trust in government institutions.

Public employees should never be placed in the position of facilitating civil immigration enforcement through data sharing practices that undermine privacy, civil liberties, or community trust. SB 504 provides clarity and accountability, helping ensure that public servants can carry out their duties lawfully and ethically while protecting the rights of Maryland residents.

At a time when data exploitation is increasingly common, Senate Bill 504 affirms Maryland’s commitment to privacy, equity, and due process.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 504. Thank you to Senator Lam for leading on this important issue of worker privacy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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