

**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 Karen Murphy-Keddell, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. **I am writing to express my strong support for SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith calls me to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to work toward justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Protecting personal privacy—especially for those who are vulnerable—is not just a policy issue for me; it is a moral one. When individuals provide personal information to state agencies, they do so in good faith, trusting that the government will use that information responsibly and only for legitimate state purposes. That trust should never be compromised in ways that place families at risk.

Current gaps in Maryland’s privacy framework allow sensitive data collected by state agencies to be accessed indirectly by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, interstate data-sharing systems, and surveillance technologies such as automated license plate readers. This effectively allows state-level information systems to become tools for federal immigration enforcement, even when that was never their intended function.

In immigrant communities across our state, fear of data misuse is real. Concerns about surveillance or information sharing discourage people from interacting with public institutions. When neighbors are afraid that routine activities—like registering a vehicle or responding to a public records inquiry—could expose them or their loved ones to immigration enforcement, it damages trust in government and weakens the fabric of our communities.

SB504 closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing drive data with ICE, stopping record requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are common sense 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.

Strong privacy protections enhance safety, fairness, and accountability for everyone, not just immigrants. For all of the above reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Karen Murphy-Keddell, kmkeddell@gmail.com

