

**SB0504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching
System (Data Privacy Act)**

Hearing before the Finance Committee, Feb. 26, 2026

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

My name is Laura Grothaus, and I am a community member in the Waverly neighborhood of Baltimore City. For years, I have been passionate about information privacy, following and supporting organizations like the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which works to defend civil liberties in the digital world. Government has a key role to play in this fight as it is challenging for citizens to control their data and live a life of digital connection.

You have an opportunity to protect the data of some of communities most vulnerable members this legislative session. SB0504 attempts to limit ICE's access to personal identifying information kept by the state. Limiting this access may save lives and is in line with similar actions that the state has taken in the past and in the present, such as the choice to sue the Trump administration to stop plans to convert a warehouse into an immigration detention facility in Washington County.

For this reason, I am urging you to issue a favorable report on SB0504.

With appreciation,

Laura Grothaus

