

**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 Mary Anne Newkirk. I live in Columbia, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

ICE actions over the past year have clearly demonstrated that rule of law is a foreign phrase to them. Not only are its employees violating immigrants' constitutional rights, they abuse immigrants once they are in ICE's custody. ICE is using any means available to meet their mass deportation quotas. In their haste, they have wrongfully detained American citizens caught in their net.

State and local authorities must explore all avenues to protect their residents from ICE overreach. They also must act in ways that remind ICE and the Trump administration that this is a country governed by rule of law

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.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Mary Anne Newkirk**  
**Columbia Maryland**