

**FAVORABLE**  
**Senate Bill 504**  
**Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 26, 2026**

**Paul Lemle**  
**MSEA President**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 504, which would prevent a controller from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement, which includes the data of children.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 504 is part of several legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. Students have a right to be safe at school, which includes knowing that their personal information will not be distributed or misused. This principle was well established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and this legislation builds on existing law by ensuring that children's data will not be sold for the purpose of immigration enforcement. We see the effects of escalations in dangerous immigration enforcement tactics in classrooms: empty seats, disrupted learning, rising fear, and growing demand for mental health support. Students cannot learn when they are afraid for their safety or the safety of their families.

Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in schools, and also to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe this is more than an immigration issue. This is a human rights issue, a civil rights issue, and a democracy issue.

**MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 504.**