

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB504
Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records,
and Message Switching System
(Data Privacy Act)
Finance Committee**

February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anne Lafferty, and I am a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, MD. I am writing in support of SB504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System.

It appears that there are several avenues by which sensitive information held by the state might make its way to federal government agencies involved in immigration enforcement, thereby unintentionally subverting privacy laws in Maryland.

The passing of sensitive information to federal agencies, directly or indirectly, should be fairly limited and should be done only when a governmental agency has a warrant or the people whose sensitive information is involved are aware of and consent to the information exchange. This is doubly true when the federal agency is seeking to use sensitive information for immigration enforcement, as the consequences to individuals whose information is obtained are potentially quite high.

There may also be consequences for state agencies directly or indirectly providing information that federal agencies then use for immigration enforcement, as community members aware of such practices will be less inclined to trust those state agencies. This may be true even when individuals are not personally concerned about immigration enforcement, but may wonder what other information is making its way to federal agencies without their knowledge or consent.

Please strengthen Maryland's privacy laws by reporting favorably on SB504.

Sincerely,

Anne Lafferty