



Written Testimony

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

Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Finance Committee. I am offering this testimony in support of Senate Bill 504.

Senate Bill 504 would prohibit third-party data collectors from selling the personal data of a consumer if the collector knew or should have known that the purchaser seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement. It further provides provisions to require custodians of public records to adopt rules and regulations to determine whether a public record is being accessed for enforcing immigration law.

In April 2024, the Office of the Comptroller [released a report](#) examining the essential and positive role of international immigration in Maryland's economy. That analysis found that immigrants make substantial contributions to the state's workforce, tax base, and overall economic growth. As Maryland's "elected CFO," I want to highlight the economic implications of these dynamics.

Immigrants account for more than one-fifth of Maryland's civilian labor force and are employed across a wide range of industries that are critical to our economy, including agriculture and food processing, healthcare, science and technology, and education. In some sectors, such as seafood processing and healthcare, immigrant workers are indispensable to maintaining continuity of services and meeting workforce demand. For example, immigrants make up approximately 23 percent of Maryland's STEM workforce and 23 percent of registered nurses statewide.

Immigrant communities also greatly contribute to our state's revenue through taxes and spending. American Immigration Council data show that, in Maryland in 2023, immigrants paid \$15.80 billion in federal, state, and local taxes and had a total spending power of \$39.5 billion.

I applaud this bill's effort to protect the private demographic data of vulnerable residents and members of our state's immigrant communities. The impact of federal immigration enforcement has negative social and economic consequences to our state. By ensuring that these third parties are prohibited from sharing sensitive data for the purposes of immigration enforcement without a warrant, this bill provides our immigrant community with the reassurance that their data is safe in Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 504. Thank you.

