

SB0504

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 1:00 PM  
Support

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Fern Aurelius from District 41 in Maryland. I am a young professional living and working in Baltimore City.

HB 264 is a necessary and timely step to strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the personal data of its residents. At its core, this bill recognizes that data collected by the State can be used not only for public service, but also for surveillance, targeting, and harm. By limiting the collection, retention, and sharing of personal information, this bill reinforces the principle that people should not be exposed to risk simply because they interact with government systems.

If our government decided that a marginalized community were to be targeted, this bill could help protect that community. These protections matter deeply for communities that have historically been subject to disproportionate surveillance and targeting, including noncitizens, transgender people, and other marginalized groups. As national rhetoric increasingly frames certain populations as "security threats," state-level privacy protections serve as an essential safeguard against misuse of data for discriminatory or punitive purposes.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 264.