

**Bill Title:** SB504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)  
**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Date:** February 26, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee,

Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM) is a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their concern for immigrant protections. QVM sees SB504 as an urgent priority in response to increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement policies and state and local data vulnerabilities.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for SB504.**

Maryland must act decisively to protect its residents’ privacy. Trust in government has eroded under increasingly aggressive federal immigration enforcement policies, and ongoing failures to protect our civil and human rights. This bill reassures Marylanders that state agencies prioritize their safety and privacy. Without these additional protections, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can access state-held personal data for the sole purpose of immigration enforcement, breaking public trust, and placing our community at risk. This bill does not deter a data processor from complying with a civil, criminal, or regulatory investigation by any government authority, unless it is solely for immigration enforcement. Residents of the state should be able to pay their taxes, access critical government services, and simply live their lives without worrying that their personal information will be indiscriminately shared with federal immigration authorities.

Data privacy legislation is crucial for everyone because it protects personal, financial, and medical information from misuse, reducing risks of identity theft and fraud. It grants individuals control over how their data is collected and used, ensures transparency, and enforces accountability on organizations, fostering trust in the digital economy and our government.

We request a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

*Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland*

*Organization email: [quakervoicemd@gmail.com](mailto:quakervoicemd@gmail.com)*