



TESTIMONY FOR SB0504

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0504 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The federal government in reaching into our lives and collecting our data in ways that we can't even keep up with. Specifically, in the area of immigration, they are trying to locate people (whether they have any criminal history or not) by buying consumer data, accessing public records and other digital records. This is an overreach that should be stopped.

This bill will set additional guidelines for businesses that sell data, as well as agencies to specifically preclude them from providing data specifically for immigration purposes unless they receive a warrant signed by a judge.

Our data is siloed for a reason and people who control that data must be responsible when they are given requests from federal agencies. Additionally, they should be able to deny requests that are overreaching and will cause harm and this legislation will give them the proper force of law to make that denial.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.