

**HB0264 - SUPPORT**

William Mascioli  
2021 Luzerne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

[B3mascioli@verizon.net](mailto:B3mascioli@verizon.net)  
301.404.7490

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0264 - Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026**

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Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is William Mascioli. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. Last year, a group of neighbors and I formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to strongly support HB 0264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026, an important tool in that effort.

These days, personal information has become a jealously guarded commodity, and a dangerous vulnerability. Year ago, this body took action to protect the information of everyone in our state through the 2021 Driver Privacy Act. These days, unfortunately, there is a lawless government agency out to undermine all of these protections. This agency has made multimillion dollar contracts with third-party data brokers such as Lexis-Nexus, Palantir, Equifax, and even the spyware producer Paragon, all in an effort to satisfy Stephen Miller's appetite for deportations.

These companies are now making huge profits by selling access to their vast databases of personal information, including names, addresses, court records, probation schedules, phone data, drivers' license information, and data from our license plates. That they are selling that sensitive personal information to the most lawless security force in American history should chill us all.

As members of this body are well aware, ICE behaves as a law unto itself. Masked unidentified agents terrorize our communities with no regard for basic American protections such as due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. Their "worst of the worst" rhetoric has been exposed as baseless manipulation: ICE chooses its targets using classic racial and employment profiling. Far from acting to protect public safety, they're seeking the easy targets of law-abiding immigrants attending their court hearings.

And it's not just immigrants being targeted. ICE is actively collecting data on anyone objecting to their misconduct—including U.S. citizens like me and my neighbors at North Woodside Civil Resistance.

ICE agents' actions are a threat to our basic democratic freedoms. We do not need to make their job easier. Tightening up our private data protections with the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026 is a step in the right direction. I therefore urge a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.