

# **Data Privacy - SB504 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alexandra Estes

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**  
**SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Alexandra Estes and I am a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.

I care about this issue because I strongly disagree with everything ICE is doing and feel it is completely wrong for ICE to have access to sensitive personal data of Maryland residents. I highly value living in a community where all people feel safe and protected.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

I am actively involved with supporting families who have been negatively impacted by ICE detentions. Every day there are more requests for help, more Go Fund Me's started to support families who have lost their primary income earners. I see the horrible, negative impact ICE is having on our community and it needs to stop. This bill is one way Maryland can stop the ICE terror!

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Estes  
15110 Whitetail Way, Darnestown, MD 20878

# **SB504 Testimony CAD 32BJ (Data Privacy Act).pdf**

Uploaded by: Alexandra Margorin

Position: FAV



## Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable

### SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CTW, CLC

**MANNY PASTREICH**  
President

**JOHN SANTOS**  
Secretary Treasurer

**ROXANA RIVERA**  
Assistant to the President

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#### Western Pennsylvania District

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www.seiu32bj.org

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

My name is Jaime Contreras, and I am the Southern Regional Director and Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU. I am pleased to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

32BJ is the largest building service union in the country, representing over 185,000 members up and down the East Coast and over 4,000 members across Maryland. Our members are primarily immigrants and people of color, and make up the workforce of essential cleaners, door-people, airport workers, and other building service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation hubs up and running. As an organization that is committed to advancing and protecting worker rights, we strongly support and urge the passage of SB504.

With our dedicated members, we fight to build a just society where immigrants can live free of fear and are treated with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, communities nationwide are facing an unprecedented attack by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Immigration arrests have increased across the country and nearly tripled in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> The current administration's immigration dragnet has left few communities unscathed. Our union family is no exception: multiple 32BJ members have been subjected to unjust detention by ICE.

At its core, SB504 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

Over the past year, increasingly reckless federal immigration policy has sown fear and distrust across our union's membership and damaged the broader social fabric that holds our state together. As a result of these cruel enforcement tactics, employers are seeing disruption and uncertainty in their workplaces, and violations of labor and wage laws are going unaddressed because workers fear that speaking up could put themselves or their families at risk. By reducing the risks associated with

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Jaime Contreras, Capital Area District Director

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accessing basic state services like procuring a driver's license or reporting a crime, this bill would do much to restore a sense of normalcy and dignity for working Marylanders across the state.

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

While 32BJ's strong contracts provide our members with protections in the workplace, these safeguards cannot accompany them once their shifts end. This is where lawmakers must step in and do the right thing.

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, on behalf of 32BJ SEIU, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504.**

Sincerely,

Jaime Contreras  
Southern Regional Director and Executive Vice President  
32BJ SEIU

<sup>i</sup> Kate Amara & Khiree Stewart, *'It scares me': Marylanders protesting as data shows ICE arrests nearly tripled in 2025*, WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore, Jan 12, 2026.  
<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/marylanders-protesting-data-ice-arrests-nearly-tripled-2025/69980610>

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Jaime Contreras, Capital Area District Director

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# **SB0504 pdf testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrea Wilson

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable  
SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching  
System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrea Wilson, and I am a resident of St. Mary's county, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wilson, St. Mary's County Resident

**Bill\_SB0504\_Andrew Miller - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Miller

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: Thursday 2/26/26

Name: Andrew J. Miller

Address: Baltimore, MD 21209

**TESTIMONY ON SB0504 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Andrew J. Miller

My name is Andrew Miller. I am a resident of District 11B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0504, Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).

I am a Past President of Chizuk Amuno Congregation, a large Conservative synagogue in Pikesville, and I am also Chair of the Synagogue Social Justice Roundtable which includes representatives from 12 partner communities and organizations in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Howard County.

Our sacred texts command us to love the stranger, as we ourselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt, and many of our families came to the United States to escape persecution. For me and for many in my community, protection of immigrants is therefore a sacred obligation. For the last several years our congregation and others have worked in support of Afghan refugee families fleeing the Taliban by providing direct support with the help of refugee relief organizations that worked in collaboration with the federal government until those collaborations were terminated in 2025.

Many of us have also worked over the last 9 years, together with immigrant support organizations, to protect the rights of others who arrived in our country to take refuge from oppressive conditions elsewhere in the world. Immigrants are important contributors to our economy and to our communities here in Maryland, where they make up 17% of the population and contribute to the economy, pay taxes, and create businesses that provide employment opportunities. According to a 2024 report by the Maryland Comptroller's Office, "Immigrants have long bolstered Maryland's population, and they are essential for a thriving economy and economic growth." All of us who are not Native Americans are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, many of whom came here to escape persecution and all of whom came to seek a better life.

It has become clear in the last two months that our federal immigration enforcement agencies are not focusing their efforts primarily on capturing people who have committed serious crime. These agencies are now operating almost entirely outside the framework of federal law

and the Constitution, and the tools used for data collection will facilitate intimidation, detention and deportation of people they wish to target, whether they are asylum seekers, green-card holders, or undocumented individuals who have lived here for decades and who have contributed to society and the economy and have no criminal record. We have read in the news that ICE is in the process of collecting information from whatever data sources are accessible to them.

Previous bills passed by the General Assembly have restricted government sharing of MVA and State data without a warrant, but much of the same data can be derived from commercial sources and third-party data brokers. Thus, despite the intentions of previous legislation, loopholes in the law still allow targeting of vulnerable people. SB0504 seeks to close off access to private data that can be accessed through these back-door approaches even when it cannot be obtained directly from government databases.

Private data in the hands of an immigration enforcement agency that chooses to use it as a weapon and facilitate unlawful and unconstitutional detention without recourse to due process is a threat to our communities and families. We need to close the loophole in existing law.

The choice before us is clear. I urge you to act with courage, compassion, and moral clarity.

**Therefore I respectfully ask this committee to return a favorable report on SB0504.**

# Written Testimony on State Senate Bill on Data Pri

Uploaded by: Anne Lafferty

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable  
SB504  
Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records,  
and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)  
Finance Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anne Lafferty, and I am a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, MD. I am writing in support of SB504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System.

It appears that there are several avenues by which sensitive information held by the state might make its way to federal government agencies involved in immigration enforcement, thereby unintentionally subverting privacy laws in Maryland.

The passing of sensitive information to federal agencies, directly or indirectly, should be fairly limited and should be done only when a governmental agency has a warrant or the people whose sensitive information is involved are aware of and consent to the information exchange. This is doubly true when the federal agency is seeking to use sensitive information for immigration enforcement, as the consequences to individuals whose information is obtained are potentially quite high.

There may also be consequences for state agencies directly or indirectly providing information that federal agencies then use for immigration enforcement, as community members aware of such practices will be less inclined to trust those state agencies. This may be true even when individuals are not personally concerned about immigration enforcement, but may wonder what other information is making its way to federal agencies without their knowledge or consent.

Please strengthen Maryland's privacy laws by reporting favorably on SB504.

Sincerely,

Anne Lafferty

# **SB0504 consumer data privacy.pdf**

Uploaded by: Anne Manuel

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records,  
and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**  
**Chair Pamela Beidle & Members of the Finance Committee**  
February 26, 2026

Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Anne Manuel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year 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 SB0504, Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System.

If I had known 20 years ago that I was going to give this testimony today, I would have considered myself paranoid and advised myself to get a grip. Who on earth could possibly want my driver's license data and to what end? What kind of loser would want to collect data from my cell phone? But times have changed and now we've all learned to jealously guard our personal information. In addition, this body has taken care to protect the information of everyone in our state through the 2021 Driver Privacy Act and the 2024 Maryland Online Data Privacy Act.

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 insatiable appetite for deportations.

These companies are now making huge profits by selling access to their massive databases of personal information. SB 0504 would sharply limit the circumstances in which third party data brokers or message-switching systems like Nlets could sell consumer or state data to the most lawless security force in American history.

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.

And is anyone really fooled by their "worst of the worst rhetoric"? No. ICE chooses its targets using classic racial and employment profiling. And they're targeting law-abiding immigrants attending their court hearings. This is not a strategy to protect public safety. This is ethnic cleansing.

Of course it's not just immigrants being targeted. ICE is actively collecting data on U.S. citizens like myself and my neighbors at North Woodside Civil Resistance who are objecting to the misconduct of this rogue federal agency.

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 SB0504 would be an important step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Manuel

2021 Luzerne Ave

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**SB504\_ArielleJuberg\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services or cooperate with any kind of authority. All of us are harmed when large groups of people are afraid to participate in our society. A society rooted in fear, secrecy, and surreptitious dealings is exactly what so many of our ancestors fled from when they came to America.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Arielle Juberg  
3411 Upton Road  
Baltimore, MD 21234  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

# **SB0504 - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Messag**

Uploaded by: Ayla Hurley

Position: FAV

Ayla Hurley  
6385 Windharp Way  
Columbia, MD  
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and  
Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

2/26/2026

TO: Chair Pamela Beidle & Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Members of the Finance Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0504, part of the Data Privacy Act.

Working in information technology, we strive to be diligent in our account security - don't write your passwords down on a sticky note on your monitor, don't share your passwords with anyone, use a password manager, etc. But none of that will matter if companies are selling our data to anyone willing to pay for it. As "cyberpunk dystopia" as that sounds, it happens every day. The website [haveibeenpwned.com](http://haveibeenpwned.com) indicates that 17,431,283,012 accounts have been hacked - I would bet that yours, committee members, and mine, are included. But who needs to hack your account to get your information when all of our data are commodities to be bought and sold.

Recently, communities in Columbia had "cop carts" out by a playground and in some parking lots. Those private companies now have video footage of the license plate numbers, the faces of children, and every one of our neighbors shopping in the area. Members of the community board were urged to remove them, because even if the company "promises" in good faith not to sell that data - one password on a sticky note and all those kids' faces are sent to god knows where. Let's at least make the *purposeful selling* of this data prohibited in our state!

I urge you to support SB 0504 and help protect us from unnecessary privacy violations by private companies just looking to make bank, lest liberty and justice for all be lost.

# **Candle Testimony SB504 Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Birgit Sharp

Position: FAV



Regarding Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
Submitted by Birgit Sharp, 2/24/2026

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of CANDLE<sup>1</sup> in support of House Bill 711. This bill is essential for protecting Marylanders' privacy. There are many provisions in the U.S. Constitution that the Supreme Court has interpreted broadly to protect a general right to privacy. Unfortunately for our privacy, the world has gotten more data dependent, governments increasingly provide services through contractors, and information is shared with various third-party entities. And, ICE is using AI to accelerate the integration of data from that vast array of suppliers without sufficient safeguards to ensure the accuracy of the results.<sup>2</sup> This has made it much more difficult for states to protect the privacy of the residents it serves.

CANDLE applauds the Maryland General Assembly for your work to protect private data. The Driver Privacy Act, the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA), and the Maryland Values Act have all advanced this goal. HB711/SB504 Data Privacy Act continues this important work by closing the following loopholes.

- It widens restrictions on selling consumers' geolocation data by expanding the definition of sensitive information to include the location of mobile phones and vehicles.
- It eliminates backdoor access to immigration-related data by requiring any person—not just federal agents or agencies—to have a judicial warrant before being allowed to receive or inspect personal records or digital images for the purpose of immigration enforcement.
- It deters “fishing” expeditions for immigration-related data by requiring those judicial warrants to clearly identify the record to be accessed.
- It includes directives aimed at ensuring effective implementation of these and other provisions in current law.

This bill is essential for the protection of our immigrant community, allowing people to seek needed, and sometimes critical, services without fear of inviting ICE to their door.

But mass surveillance does not stop with immigrants. Data protection is a fundamental right crucial to personal safety, dignity, and self-determination for everyone. When data is misused and privacy protections erode, everyone is at risk.

Therefore, we urge you to give a favorable report for SB504.

[candle.shines25@gmail.com](mailto:candle.shines25@gmail.com)

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*Far better to light the candle, than to curse the darkness.*

1 Candle is the Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties and Equality, based in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties. Our membership is close to 150 people.

2 The Economist magazine, “How ICE’s new software tools could speed up deportations: The risk of overreach is high.” February 18, 2026 <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/02/18/how-ices-new-software-tools-could-speed-up-deportations>



# **Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 Data Privacy.pdf**

Uploaded by: Catherine Morrison

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – **Favorable SB0504** –  
Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act) Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026

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

My name is Catherine Morrison, and I am a resident of Marriottsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 0504 the Data Privacy Act**.

My data is MINE. I freely give the state information about myself, in turn for services the state provides. I do not give the state information to share with the federal government, third parties, private companies....not anyone. It makes no sense that current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow my sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or anyone through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for exposing my private information to unauthorized organizations.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. Which federal agency will be the next that attempts to use the loophole?

When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue **a favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Morrison

**SB0504\_Data\_Privacy\_Act\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## 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.

# **Testimony on Senate Bill 504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christina Yuan

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**  
**SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christina M Yuan MD, and I am a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I am a retired member of the military, a retired federal employee, and a physician. Sensitive personal information should never be available to those who do not have a right and an authorization to know. This is particularly important for personal health information and personal identifying information, especially when they are linked. When this data is given by an individual, the release is based on the understanding that the information will be available only to entities that have been authorized by the individual. It is a violation of trust to give such information to those who are not authorized by the individual.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

Privacy violations of this sort are prohibited in medicine and in human use research. The use of triangulation to identify an individual based on seemingly innocuous pieces of personal information is increasingly feasible in the setting of constant security surveillance (including at medical facilities) and AI applications. Every effort should be taken to avoid this.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Christina M. Yuan, Laurel, MD**

# **SEIU Local 500 - Testimony in Support of SB 504 20**

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - SB 504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message  
Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Favorable

Senate Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

Christopher C. Cano, MPA

Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Beidle & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents thousands of public service, education, and higher education workers across Maryland, many of whom are entrusted with sensitive personal information in the course of their work. Senate Bill 504 provides essential safeguards to ensure that personal data held by private entities and public agencies is not misused, sold, or weaponized—particularly for immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant.

This legislation strengthens Maryland’s data privacy framework by limiting the sale and misuse of sensitive personal data, reinforcing protections around public records, and placing clear guardrails on the use of databases, message switching systems, and facial recognition technology. These protections are critical not only for consumer privacy, but also for worker safety and public trust in government institutions.

Public employees should never be placed in the position of facilitating civil immigration enforcement through data sharing practices that undermine privacy, civil liberties, or community trust. SB 504 provides clarity and accountability, helping ensure that public servants can carry out their duties lawfully and ethically while protecting the rights of Maryland residents.

At a time when data exploitation is increasingly common, Senate Bill 504 affirms Maryland’s commitment to privacy, equity, and due process.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 504. Thank you to Senator Lam for leading on this important issue of worker privacy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA  
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs  
SEIU Local 500

# **SB504 - Data Privacy.pdf**

Uploaded by: Craig Rice

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 504

### **Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

*Senate Finance Committee*

February 24, 2026

Manna Food Center strongly supports SB 504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act), which aims to enhance the protection of an individual's personal data within the personal records held by government agencies, when the data is to be used for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

Manna Food Center has served residents in Montgomery County, Maryland, since its humble beginnings in a vacant elementary school in 1983, serving just a few hundred recipients with a single pledge of \$3,100, and a donation of 16,000 pounds of food. In 2025, 42 years later, Manna distributed 3.14 million pounds of food, while purchasing over 224,644 pounds of produce from 33 local farms for redistribution to 70 beneficiary organizations. Through our Food for Families distributions at 10 sites, Manna reached 176,156 neighbors. We also supported 7,922 students and their families with programs at 94 school partners.

As these statistics demonstrate, Manna's programs weave through every facet of civic life, creating a robust and dynamic community among all who feel that Montgomery County is their home – no matter how long they have been here or where they came from. However, when members of our community begin to lose trust in state and federal programs or agencies, especially regarding violations of data privacy, our carefully stewarded community networks become strained and precarious.

Despite growing food insecurity and community needs in our region, we and our partner organizations have seen widespread fear of applying to state and federal entitlement programs due to rising uncertainty on the lawful use of their sensitive data, and whether it may be used for immigration enforcement. Fear around data usage for immigration enforcement, or a lack of clarity on regulations, creates ripple effects throughout the population. For example, when the Trump Administration implemented a public charge regulation in 2020 targeting a limited number of lawfully present immigrants applying for green cards, the chilling effect extended far into communities of immigrants with documentation and U.S. citizens. 3 in 10 low-income families



avoided seeking help and care for which they qualified under federal law.

In 2026, we are facing a cascade of similar changes. Maryland state data shows a significant drop in SNAP and Medicaid direct enrollment among children in Maryland schools, which will in turn adversely impact schools hoping to receive funds and reimbursement through the Community Eligibility Provision. There is even hesitation among the community in responding to non-identifying data collection questions such as household size and zip code – critical data required for the county grant funding we receive. Simultaneously, Manna Food Center is now serving more than 10,000 families each month – up from 6,600 just a short while ago – due to growing need after the government shutdown, massive federal job losses, and waning trust in state and federal programs.

This is just a microcosm of what will continue to happen if Maryland allows mistrust and uncertainty around sensitive data held by the government to grow – fewer and fewer Americans availing state and federal benefits that stimulate local economy, with an increasing dependence on non-profit organizations that simply cannot stretch far enough to meet the surging needs. Moreover, sharing geolocation and other sensitive data belonging to individuals of interest to federal immigration enforcement does not only put those individuals at risk. Examples in Minneapolis and around the country show us that it in fact puts everyone — including our partners, staff members, volunteers, bystanders, and others at food distribution sites and events – at risk of fatal harm.

We are truly alarmed by reports that indicate that immigration enforcement's use of Palantir's ImmigrationOS is drawing from thousands of government databases, and we fear that sensitive data held by Maryland's government agencies may already have been harvested for AI-driven immigration enforcement action. We strongly support swift action to pass SB504 in order to protect sensitive and identifying data from immigration enforcement uses, to restore and rebuild public trust in government agencies and programs, and to safeguard basic needs assistance networks at a time of uncertainty and heightened need.

Thank you for your consideration. We ask the committee to make a favorable report on SB 504.

Sincerely,  
Manna Food Center



Craig L. Rice, CEO  
240.268.2524  
[craig@mannafood.org](mailto:craig@mannafood.org)

**LWVMD\_SB 0504\_02.26.2026\_Testimony in support of D**

Uploaded by: Cynthia Boddie-Willis

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **SB 0504: Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

#### **POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**By: Linda T. Kohn, President**

**Date: February 26, 2026**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports **SB 0504**. The League of Women Voters believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. The League has explicitly supported legislation that would protect personal information and would limit the authority of the federal government to issue documents that are not judicial warrants to obtain information. The League also has acknowledged that the individual liberties of Black, Latino, and immigrant individuals are not equally protected and has supported legislation with the potential to improve this outcome.

**SB 0504** amends Maryland's commercial law to further protect personal information that can be used to identify "sensitive attributes" such as an individual's racial or ethnic origin, nationality, or citizenship or immigrant status as well as the precise geolocation of a person, and mobile device or a motor vehicle. The bill also stipulates that a [controller](#) (meaning a person that, alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of processing personal data) may not sell personal information to any entity that the controller knew or should have known intends to use the data for immigration enforcement. **SB 0504** further prohibits a controller from complying with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, state, local, or other governmental authority, if the pursuit of that information pertains solely to immigration enforcement. These provisions are consistent with the fact that [immigration regulation](#) is exclusively a federal power and responsibility and, therefore, is to be supported by federal not state tax dollars.

**SB 0504** further specifies that a custodian of personal information may not disclose that data to a any person or government agency for the purpose of immigration enforcement unless the custodian is presented with a valid warrant issued by a federal or Maryland court which clearly identifies the record to be accessed. This includes entities that operate "message switching systems", meaning law enforcement communications platforms that automatically route, format, and deliver electronic queries and responses between law enforcement agencies and databases. In addition, each government agency is expected to craft policies and procedures that discourage the development of a secondary commercial market for personal data that contains "sensitive attributes" and limit the ability of any entity that may have received such information from a government agency to participate in the sale and/or redisclosure of that data. The League anticipates that these requirements will lessen the chances that the state will inadvertently enable a ["data broker"](#) engaged by federal programs such as ICE.

Therefore, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue a FAVORABLE report.**

# **TEST SB 504 Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cynthia Sokolow

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 - Favorable**

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

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, and Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow of Howard County, Maryland, am writing **in support of SB 504, The Data Privacy Act.**

On my mother's side, I am a fifth generation Marylander, but my father was a Holocaust survivor. He was able to escape Nazi-occupied Austria, however, his parents were not, and eventually perished in the renown death camp Treblinka.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Nazis used data processing technologies to manage population records. This enabled them to identify and target Jews and others. The absence of data privacy resulted in the persecution and death of millions of innocent European men, women and children.

Maryland should never be like a Nazi-occupied territory. But current loopholes in our state's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies be turned over to ICE agents through various networks.

I believe ICE will target anyone in Maryland who doesn't look American. Soon enough ICE will expand their research to include Jews, Muslims, Asians and more. Eventually anyone who disagrees with the current United States administration will be added to that list. You and I and our families are not exempt.

SB 504 will prevent third parties from sharing driver data with ICE. It is up to our state lawmakers and agencies to protect all Marylanders from our personal data falling into the wrong hands. We are entering a crisis. It is not too late to ensure our safety.

**I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 504.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow  
21042

**SB0504-FAV-DAG.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel Golombek

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY FOR SB0504**  
**Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

The federal government is reaching into our lives and collecting our data in ways that we can't even keep up with. Our data is siloed for a reason, and those entrusted with it must be able to reject improper or harmful requests. This bill gives them the legal authority to do so.

Specifically, for deportation purposes they are trying to locate people (whether they have any criminal history or not) by buying consumer data, accessing public and other digital records. This is an overreach that must stop.

This bill establishes clear guardrails for businesses and state agencies that handle personal data. It prevents them from providing information for immigration-enforcement purposes unless a judicial warrant is issued.

I urge you to vote Favorable on SB0504 and support its passage through the General Assembly.

Daniel Golombek  
Lutherville  
District 11

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 44A. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Daryl Yoder, 309 Glenmore Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **Data Privacy senate 0504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Debbie Shulman

Position: FAV

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

Favorable SB-0504

Senate Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026

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

My name is Deborah (“Debbie”) Shulman, and I am a 31-year resident of Olney, Maryland. I am writing in strong support of SB-0504 the Data Privacy Act.

I care deeply about data privacy and do not believe my personal information should be shared with Homeland Security or ICE. I do not want federal immigration authorities targeting me because they tracked my license plate while I was documenting an ICE event. This is happening because federal agencies have access to Motor Vehicle Administration data. People are being targeted because their names sound foreign. That is racial profiling.

I am grateful that my Guatemalan daughter-in-law took my son’s last name when they married. Otherwise, she could be profiled, even though she is a U.S. citizen. No Maryland resident should have to worry that routine state data collection could be used to endanger them or their family.

I support because current loopholes in Maryland’s privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This effectively turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

There should not be loopholes in data privacy protections. Our personal information has already been breached in too many ways. The State of Maryland has a responsibility to protect the people who live here. If this can affect one person, it can affect all of us — including members of this committee.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB-0504

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Shulman  
Olney, Maryland

**SB504 - MD Data Privacy Act\_FAV\_QV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

**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)*

# **SB0504 Support Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Fern Aurelius

Position: FAV

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.

# **Franca Muller Paz BTU SB0504 Sample Testimony (FOR**

Uploaded by: Franca Muller

Position: FAV

## Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable

### SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Franca Muller Paz. I am a resident of District 46, a teacher at Baltimore City College, and I am here as a representative of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I am speaking in support of **HB711 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Marylanders understand that we are protected from warrantless arrests in our homes. The deep knowledge of our constitutional rights is a testament to our strength as a state.

As the number of immigration detentions in cars grows and grows, it seems that in response to the difficulty of targeting homes, ICE is now focused on exploiting vulnerabilities in our state privacy laws to target vehicles instead. \*Many of the targeted drivers are just going to work or taking care of their family.

Just before Thanksgiving a student contacted me pleading for help. She has given me permission to share her message from that day. She wrote, "my father was on his way to pick me up to attend an open house for MICA. I checked his location and saw he was on a bridge for about 15 minutes. Then I received a call from my mom. She told me "wake your sister up, I think ICE detained your dad."

We rushed out of the house and got to the location it said he was at. When we got there, we saw his work truck and the window from the passenger seat was completely broken. He wasn't there, only his truck. We searched for his phone and found it in the middle of the road. We checked his camera roll and saw that he recorded a video. In it we can clearly see the ICE agent smashing his window. My dad tried his best to record, but since he was scared he dropped the phone. But you can hear the ICE agent mocking my dad and laughing at him. My dad asked "could you give me something. I'm bleeding. You did this to me." The agent laughed at him and said "no - you did this to yourself." He then grabbed my dad's phone and threw it in the middle of the road.

The sheer number of stories of our non-citizen community members being stopped in their cars tells me that their license plate data is being used to target and terrorize them.

HB711 is a commonsense reform that ensures Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose and close loopholes present through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers.

Maryland must not be complicit in ICE's desire to use our data to perpetuate violence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Franca Muller Paz**  
**Building Representative & Executive Board Member**  
**Baltimore Teachers Union**  
**[franca.muller@baltimorecitycollege.us](mailto:franca.muller@baltimorecitycollege.us)**

# **TESTIMONY FOR SB0504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable**

### **SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

Finance Committee

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0504, Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).

Maryland has taken steps to protect people's private information, such as the Driver Privacy Act and the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act. However, more needs to be done. ICE is currently using every method they can to gather information on people. Other parts of the federal government have also been collecting information on people. A lot of that information targets immigrants and makes them have to live in fear. I have accompanied several immigrants to immigration related appointments. They are hard working people who have work permits and pay taxes and contribute to their communities. They are parents who are afraid for their children's safety. More than once a person whom I was accompanying was detained, breaking up a family and causing total disruption to their lives. The state needs to do all it can to prevent Marylanders from having to live in fear. We need to close all loopholes that permit people's private information to be accessed by ICE. Not only would that help immigrants, but it would help all of us. It is only a small step from gathering information to use against immigrants, to gathering information to use against protesters or anyone who does not agree with the government. This is already happening.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on SB0504.

Thank you.

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 46. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE. Reporting crimes such as domestic violence or child abuse could put them in the line of ICE, so they don't report.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Holly Powell**  
**2308 Cambridge Street**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21224**  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

**Data Privacy Senate version 24FEB 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jan Kleinman

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 46. As a baby boomer who grew up in the pre-digital technology era, I have been reluctant to divulge my personal information online. However, nowadays, no matter how careful I am, I know my personal data is held by state agencies like MVA and the Comptroller. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE. I share their fear. If my neighbors are afraid to call the police, even if a crime is happening before their eyes, all of us are less safe!

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jan Kleinman  
250 President ST Unit 508  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **SB504-testimony-nielsen.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jared Nielsen

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy Act  
Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jared Nielsen, and I am a resident of Baltimore, MD 21209. I am writing in support of SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.

I work in the technology sector, which means I have a clear-eyed view of how personal data is collected, aggregated, and monetized — and it is rarely in the interest of the people it was collected from. The default is for that data to be sold to the highest bidder, not protected. Our lives are now inseparable from digital tools. We depend on them for communication, employment, healthcare, and civic participation. That dependency makes robust data privacy not a luxury, but a necessity — especially for communities that cannot afford paid services, which typically offer stronger privacy controls. Free and low-cost services disproportionately harvest and expose user data, which means lower-income communities bear the greatest privacy risks. Data privacy is an equity issue.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families. I have immigrant neighbors in Baltimore. They are part of the fabric of this city. When they are afraid to use public services, seek healthcare, or engage with local government because they fear their data will be used against them, that fear does not stay contained — it erodes trust in institutions for everyone.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk — not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jared Nielsen  
Baltimore, MD 21209

**SB 504 MLJC FAV Statement - .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jared Solomon

Position: FAV



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### **FAVORABLE HB711 - The Data Privacy Act**

Finance Committee  
February 6, 2026

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, **strongly supports SB 504 as a 2026 caucus priority**. The bill prohibits third-party data businesses from selling personal and sensitive data for the purposes of federal immigration enforcement.

Maryland has worked hard to preserve the fundamental rights of its residents and to protect their sensitive data. The Maryland General Assembly has passed three signature pieces of legislation:

- The Public Safety Section of 2021 Driver Privacy Protection Act
- The Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA)
- The Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA)

However, legal loopholes in these laws, combined with Federal overreach, have resulted in the free outflow of data to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency and others, via third-party data aggregators and brokers.

#### **This bill will:**

1. Address the Public Safety Section of the Driver Privacy Protection Act to strengthen current law by explicitly adding third parties, such as NLETS (International Justice and Public Safety Network) to the definition of covered entities.
2. Change MPIA to protect data that could otherwise be considered public information and ensure that MPIA officers take adequate steps to ensure MPIA's requests are not being used for immigration enforcement purposes.
3. Strengthen data privacy provisions in MODPA by limiting the "publicly available information" that falls outside its protections; by specifically protecting geolocation data from mobile devices and vehicles; by ending the law enforcement exemption of ICE; and by prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive data.

This legislation, which aligns with MLJC's mission of supporting targeted populations and standing in solidarity with our neighbors, particularly immigrants. Given recent shootings involving ICE, as well as a significantly disturbing increase in ICE's use of violent tactics, many Marylanders are understandably living in fear. This bill would ensure that any sensitive data regarding any Marylander is safeguarded against federal government overreach.

HB 711 not only protects the sensitive data and privacy of all Marylanders, but also strengthens public trust in the government and in state agencies. No one should hesitate from getting the help they need because of fear of federal overreach. This is an important protection for basic privacy rights and emphasizes Maryland's commitment to protect our residents.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 504.

# **SB 504 - Favorable - JCavanaugh.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jean Cavanaugh

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB 504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message  
Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Cavanaugh, and I live in Frederick MD. I am writing in support of **SB 504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I oppose the U.S. becoming a surveillance state that uses data collected from the state and third parties to detain/disappear certain groups of people, with immigrants being targeted right now. Maryland cannot be complicit in feeding people who live here into DHS' constitutional and human rights-violating detention/disappearance/deportation machine. Maryland cannot support the trump administration's manufactured and sudden "illegal" status of most refugees, asylum seekers, some green card holders, those with work permits, and others with previously legal statuses.

Maryland privacy laws are not now strong enough to protect sensitive personal information from being collected and funneled to DHS agencies. I fear, though, that like the new legislation banning 287g agreements, this legislation won't be enough to protect individuals who are targeted by the cruel and corrupt trump administration. But we have to do something, start somewhere.

Please vote favorably for SB 504.

Thank you,

Jean Cavanaugh

Frederick, MD

# Montgomery SB504FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jean Montgomery

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and  
Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)  
Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Jean Montgomery, and I am a resident and community member from Olney, Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in **support of SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

I personally care about this issue because I am deeply concerned about the manner in which information is being weaponized and used against law abiding individuals who have immigrated to the United States from other countries. Information from court summons is being used to detain lawfully present individuals attending their regularly scheduled immigration check-in hearings. Video surveillance of our roads are being utilized to pick up hardworking employees, while traveling to work or on their way home to their family. I find this deeply unsettling, as I have naturalized citizens in my own family and my community is comprised of beloved individuals who meaningfully contribute to the fabric of my church, school, local economy, and daily life. What was once private, protected information is now being weaponized, to enable tax-payer funded federal agents to kidnap, abduct, and transport our Maryland residents far away from the reach of family, friends, community, and legal counsel.

I **support SB504** because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families. For instance, a close family friend operates a construction and landscaping business and counsels his workers to no longer travel along certain roads or frequent certain stores to buy supplies, and no longer takes lucrative business contracts in certain areas. He does this not because his workers status is in question, but because there are reports that video surveillance is being utilized in those areas to racially profile, kidnap, abduct, and transport our community members to fulfill detention and detainment quotas, rather than engage in targeted law enforcement of criminals.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery.

# **Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Blalock

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on Senate Bill 504– Favorable**

### **SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

**Indivisible Baltimore County** offers favorable testimony in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

**Indivisible Baltimore County is one of thousands of Indivisible groups across the country taking action to build grassroots power and fight for a truly inclusive democracy.**

At its core, SB504 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

**Indivisible Baltimore County advocated for County House Bill 98-25: Protections for Non- U.S. Citizens**, following widespread community concern due to the removal of the county's sanctuary status. 98-25 clarified that county personnel will not engage in civil immigration enforcement beyond what is legally required, ensuring that all residents can safely interact with local government. Data privacy was included within that legislation, and aligns with Senate Bill 504.

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

**Closing driver data loopholes, as proposed in Senate Bill 504, would reduce fear, strengthen trust in public systems, and ensure that our communities can safely access the protections and services they are entitled to.**

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure

that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, **Indivisible Baltimore County** urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Blalock, Steering Committee**  
**Indivisible Baltimore County**  
**[contact@indivisible-baltimorecounty.org](mailto:contact@indivisible-baltimorecounty.org)**

**MDGA26\_SB0504\_JerryKickenson\_JUFJ\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV

February 26, 2026

Jerry Kickenson  
Wheaton, MD 20902

**TESTIMONY ON SB 504 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Jerry Kickenson, on behalf of Jews United for Justice

**My name is Jerry Kickenson. I am a resident of District 18 and a volunteer leader with Jews United for Justice. JUFJ organizes 6,000 Jewish Marylanders and allies to advocate for social, racial, and economic justice at the state and local level. On behalf of JUFJ, I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).**

Jewish law and tradition lean strongly towards privacy. We read in Proverbs 11:13: "A base fellow gives away secrets, but a trustworthy soul keeps a confidence". Rabbi Gershom ben Judah (c. 960–1040 CE), known as Me'or Hagolah ("Light of the Exile"), instituted a *cherem* (ban) against reading another person's private mail or correspondence without authorization. While Jewish law always had exceptions for when violating privacy is necessary to prevent serious harm, violating privacy for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement does not rise to that standard.

SB 504 amends existing law to explicitly specify that the privacy of sensitive information about Maryland residents held by the state shall not be violated solely for the purpose of immigration enforcement, whether directly or after sale to a private entity.

These changes will help protect my neighbors from Ethiopia and my long time friend from El Salvador, as well as tens of thousands of other Maryland residents, from unnecessary intrusion of their privacy for no reasonable purpose. Overreaching and overly violent federal immigration enforcement should not be abetted in any way by the state of Maryland.

SB 504 is consistent with my Jewish values and, I believe, the values of the majority of Marylanders. **On behalf of JUFJ, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 504.**

# **SB 504- Data Privacy Act- Favorable Testimony UUL**

Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero

Position: FAV



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony

#### **SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act) Favorable Report**

To: Sen. Pamela Beidle, Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Finance Committee  
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Date: February 26, 2026

:Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony **IN FAVOR** of **SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

Some 55 years ago, immediately after I took the oath of office with the Social Security Administration, even before I lowered my hand, I was read the agency's first regulation: "the personal information entrusted to its employees is sacrosanct and under no circumstances is that information to be shared or disclosed unless authorized." However, now, in an era of digitalization, it is obvious that our personal data is at greater risk and must be protected.

In recent years, we have seen the national administration, in particular, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its subordinate agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) erode privacy protections that have led to fear and uncertainty in the immigrant community.

As Politico reports, in recent weeks we have seen a significant uptick in domestic surveillance by DHS, not only against our immigrant neighbors but also against those who support them, including protestors exercising their constitutional right to free speech, to assemble, and to petition their government. The national administration has given DHS unprecedented access to troves of sensitive data stored in federal agencies including the Social Security Administration (SSA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Every inch of an individual's digital footprint is available for intrusion.

The release to ICE of personal data from Medicaid (CMS), is particularly worrisome as our immigrant neighbors may be reluctant to seek medical assistance and health care, thus creating a public health crisis which would endanger everyone in Maryland.

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

[www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org) [info@uulmmd.org](mailto:info@uulmmd.org) [www.facebook.com/uulmmd](https://www.facebook.com/uulmmd) [www.twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)

We must take steps to restore trust by ensuring that state and local agencies, as well as law enforcement entities and third-part data brokers are prohibited from sharing personal information and facial recognition data with federal immigration authorities unless a valid judicial warrant is presented.

We must also ensure accountability and transparency by requiring that agencies maintain records of all access requests, and submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

I share my faith with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland. We affirm that every person has worth and dignity, and that includes the knowledge that one's personal information is secure from intrusion by a national government that might do them harm.

I encourage you to deliver a **favorable report on SB 504**.

Thank you.

Sources:

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 20, Chapter III, Social Security, Part 401, Privacy and Disclosure of Information, [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/cfr20/cfrdoc.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/cfrdoc.htm)

"ICE has expanded its mass surveillance efforts. Online activists are fighting back," Politico, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/29/ice-tracking-tools-protesters-00755703>

"Trump Administration Hands Over Nation's Medicaid Enrollee Data to ICE," Associated Press, <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-medicaid-trump-ice-ab9c2267ce596089410387bfc40eeb7>

"ICE Accessing Medicaid Data Raises Privacy, Health Concerns," Newsweek, <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-accessing-medicaid-data-raises-privacy-health-concerns-2100763>

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

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**Finance\_ SB 504\_Data Privacy Act\_2\_26\_26 (2).pdf**

Uploaded by: Jo Shifrin

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2026

Jo Shifrin  
Bethesda, MD 20817

**TESTIMONY ON SB 504 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Jo Shifrin

**My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).**

I moved to Montgomery County in 2014 when I retired. My support of this legislation comes from my belief in Jewish values. *Tikkun Olam* is an obligation to make the world a better place for everyone and *Dei Machsoro* means we must make certain that everyone has what they need to both live and thrive.

I support SB 504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data, collected by state agencies, to be shared with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This allows our state agencies to undermine community trust by serving as a conduit for federal immigration enforcement.

In the past year, we have seen ICE agents abuse their authority, use excessive force, and ignore the requirement that they obtain judicial warrants. I have seen videos of people being pulled from their cars in front of their children, pulled out of their homes unclothed, and taken off the street while commuting to their jobs. ICE has bullied, beaten and killed US residents. I do not want to share information with federal agents who flagrantly violate the law.

This bill closes the loopholes in our current laws by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping record requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure that Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is

misused, everyone's privacy is at risk –not just immigrants' privacy. State agencies should function as a shield for its residents, not a pipeline for ICE to harm them.

**I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB 504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act).**

# Health Care for the Homeless - SB 504 FAV - Data P

Uploaded by: Joanna Diamond

Position: FAV



## HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTIMONY

### FAVORABLE

## SB 504 – Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Senate Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

Health Care for the Homeless supports SB 504, which seeks to add privacy protections of personal records held by government entities to enhance an individual's personal data when that data is to be used for the purpose of immigration enforcement. Dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling. Such protections are critical for our patients and make all of our communities stronger.

Health Care for the Homeless is a federally qualified health center, providing comprehensive health care and housing services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability in the Baltimore area. We provide services to everyone, regardless of immigration status, and we do not collect immigration status information, both as a matter of law and as a matter of values. We know, anecdotally, that our clients have a whole range of immigration statuses. We also know that many clients we serve also rely on critical public benefits and social safety programs for their health and safety. The efficacy of services that Health Care for the Homeless is compromised if access to these other services clients rely on is compromised. Allowing access to clients' sensitive information will undoubtedly compromise those services because it will have a significant chilling effect because of the fear of deportation and other immigration proceedings. This chilling effect will go far beyond the public services that people receive at the locations and entities contemplated by this bill – it will also have a chilling effect at the other places they receive services, including Health Care for the Homeless. This will have a significant impact on the health and well-being of full communities who forgo these critical services due to understandable fear of what will happen to them and their families.

Immigrant families should be able to access critical government services without worrying that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. SB 504 upholds Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. We urge a favorable report.

*Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We deliver medical care, mental health services, state-certified addiction treatment, dental care, social services, housing support services, and housing for over 11,000 Marylanders annually at sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.*

*Our Vision: Everyone is healthy and has a safe home in a just and respectful community.*

*Our Mission: We work to end homelessness through racially equitable health care, housing and advocacy in partnership with those of us who have experienced it.*

*For more information, visit [www.hchmd.org](http://www.hchmd.org).*

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted in collaboration with Racial Justice Baltimore and CASA. I am a resident of **District 46**. I am a committed community volunteer, community association board member, and live adjacent to a thriving immigrant community in Highlandtown in Baltimore's 21224 zip code. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline. The perception of safety of the immigrant community in my neighborhood is vital for the continued growth, vibrancy, and life of our community and our city and state.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

**John Preston Ford**

**529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224**

**SB0504\_Testimony\_2-26-26\_js.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joyce Sims

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill - **Favorable**

**SB0504 - Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

My name is Joyce Sims and I am a resident of Mechanicsville in St. Mary’s County writing **in support of SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by State agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns State agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants! State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0504.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Joyce Sims

Mechanicsville MD 20659

# **SB#0504-data privacy for consumers.pdf**

Uploaded by: Julie Solomon

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2026  
Julie Robin Solomon  
Baltimore City, Maryland 21231

## **TESTIMONY ON SB#0504 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Full Bill Name: Data Privacy–Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**TO:** Chair, Del. Pamela Beidle; Vice Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes; and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Julie Robin Solomon

**My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in favor of #SB0504.**

**I have resided in Baltimore City for 39 years. I belong to the ACLU, Casa, and Indivisible Baltimore. I strongly urge the Committee to pass SB#0504--The Data Privacy Act. This Act is essential to ensuring that all Marylanders, particularly those from historically disenfranchised communities, have their personal information secured from misuse by state or government agencies. During this era, when the Trump administration is using ICE and CPB as a fascistic militia, we must make sure that all our community members, including vulnerable populations in our community have their data privacy protected. It is our duty as Marylanders to stand up for the most vulnerable in our community. That is what democracy means--safeguarding the total populace.**

**As a longtime Baltimore City Resident, I have personally witnessed how police and the sheriff's department (in the past) have used privacy data to harass African-American and Latino city residents alike. I have an African American son and African-American grandchildren and godchildren. My factotum is Latina. I want to make sure that their data is protected. As our Federal Government becomes more racist and aggressive in its fascistic policing practices, our state must take a lead in ensuring that our data is secure. SB#0504 is a good start to achieve this. I thank you all for your hard and well-considered work and respectfully urge Committee members to vote in favor of SB#0504 (Data Privacy–Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System [Data Privacy Act]), which will prevent the selling or sharing of personal consumer data with the federal government for immigration purposes.**

# **SB0504 Testimony 2-24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Juliet Brown

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching  
System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Juliet Brown, and I am a resident in St. Mary's County, Maryland. **I am writing in support of SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Juliet Brown**  
**St. Mary's County, MD**

**SB 504\_MD Center on Economic Policy\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kali Schumitz

Position: FAV

# Maryland Should Ensure that Immigrants' Data is Secure and Privacy is Guaranteed

## Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 504

*Given before the Senate Finance Committee*

Like all Marylanders, immigrants should feel confident in the privacy and security of the data they share with state and local agencies. They must be assured that unless there is a valid court-issued warrant, their data cannot be shared by law enforcement agencies or state and local government for the purposes of immigration enforcement. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports Senate Bill 504 because it will ensure that immigrants' data, like that of all Marylanders, is secured and help guarantee their privacy.**

At its core, Senate Bill 504 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the Maryland Public Information Act to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening Maryland Online Data Privacy Act by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

This legislation is crucial not only for protecting the privacy of all Maryland residents but also for fostering trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. By clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state, we promote the values of dignity, safety, and fairness.

Further, Marylanders benefit from state policies that make our state a welcoming place for immigrants. Just over 1 million immigrants reside in Maryland, working sectors across our state's economy. About 36 percent of Main Street business owners in Maryland are immigrants, operating storefront shops that help keep downtown areas

vibrant. About 21 percent of Maryland's workers are immigrants including 33 percent of child care workers, 29 percent of registered nurses and 27 percent of software developers.

Immigrant workers and business owners generate \$85 billion of economic output in Maryland. In fact, when immigrants move to Maryland the economy grows and this doesn't mean fewer jobs, it means more jobs, more consumers, more workers and more business owners.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy**, once again calls on the General Assembly to take further action to ensure that the private data of all Marylanders is protected.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy urges **the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 504.**

# **SB504 Testimony kmk.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Murphy-Keddell

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)  
Finance Committee**

February 26, 2026

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

My name is Karen Murphy-Keddell, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. **I am writing to express my strong support for SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith calls me to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to work toward justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Protecting personal privacy—especially for those who are vulnerable—is not just a policy issue for me; it is a moral one. When individuals provide personal information to state agencies, they do so in good faith, trusting that the government will use that information responsibly and only for legitimate state purposes. That trust should never be compromised in ways that place families at risk.

Current gaps in Maryland’s privacy framework allow sensitive data collected by state agencies to be accessed indirectly by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, interstate data-sharing systems, and surveillance technologies such as automated license plate readers. This effectively allows state-level information systems to become tools for federal immigration enforcement, even when that was never their intended function.

In immigrant communities across our state, fear of data misuse is real. Concerns about surveillance or information sharing discourage people from interacting with public institutions. When neighbors are afraid that routine activities—like registering a vehicle or responding to a public records inquiry—could expose them or their loved ones to immigration enforcement, it damages trust in government and weakens the fabric of our communities.

SB504 closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing drive data with ICE, stopping record requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are common sense reforms that ensure Maryland’s privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone’s privacy is at risk—not just immigrants’. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit for ICE.

Strong privacy protections enhance safety, fairness, and accountability for everyone, not just immigrants. For all of the above reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen Murphy-Keddell, [kmkeddell@gmail.com](mailto:kmkeddell@gmail.com)



**SB504 FIN D4CC fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV



## **Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**

### **SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

Doctors for Camp Closure (D4CC) Maryland Chapter offers favorable testimony in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Doctors for Camp Closure is a non-partisan organization of over 2,200 physicians and health care professionals from all specialties who oppose inhumane detention. We advocate for humane and just treatment for all.

At its core, SB504 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. Our immigrant patients must have their privacy protected. This legislation is critical for our patients' welfare.

If our patients' privacy is not protected then they are at a much higher risk of deportation. There is nothing that is worse for our patients' health than the fear of and then actual deportation. Once a family member is deported, the family members suffer physically and psychologically. Children lose their ability to thrive and function in school. They regress emotionally which then takes a physical toll on their bodies. Families lose a wage earner so they suffer economically.

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public"

but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

ICE actions have already created an environment of fear and uncertainty which discourages individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

Without protection of data, our patients will be increasingly targeted and will feel even less safe to venture out seeking medical care. This not only has a negative impact upon the individual patient but also has a damaging effect on their families and communities. If patients with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure are too afraid to seek medical care, they face a high risk of disability and preventable deaths. That results in suffering for them and their entire family. And we know all too well from epidemics of infectious diseases such as Covid and tuberculosis that if an individual is afraid to seek care, entire communities are then at risk.

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, Doctors for Camp Closure urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Sincerely,  
Kate Sugarman, MD  
Doctors for Camp Closure co leader  
Potomac MD

# **Testimony in Support of SB504\_Blaha\_SURJ.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Tuesday, February 24, 2026



## Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization based in Maryland. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying **in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

President Trump's cruel, racist, and xenophobic attacks on immigrants has continued in his second administration. It is incumbent upon Maryland to protect the people that he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, family members, and neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities. They don't deserve to live in fear.

HB711 is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal, private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant.

Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat from which this bill seeks to protect Marylanders: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE received his information directly from the MVA database. This constitutes a horrific violation of the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants by encouraging them get driver's licenses. This trust benefitted everyone by making all of Maryland roads safer.

While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics by attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. HB711 is therefore necessary to fully shut down the pipeline of Marylanders' personal and private data being hijacked by federal agencies seeking to do them harm to our neighbors,

friends, and families, undermine the effectiveness of our institutions, and undermine the safety of our communities.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

I do not want Maryland to use our resources, including our data, to help President Trump conduct his racist, cruel anti-immigrant campaign. We must stand up for our friends, family, and neighbors by refusing to be complicit in his xenophobia. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in **support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration

Sincerely,  
Dr. Katherine Blaha  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

# Written Testimony - SB0504.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Little

Position: FAV

Written Testimony

Bill: **SB0504**

Position: **FAV**

February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, and Members of the Committee:

As a concerned Maryland citizen, I am in favor of SB0504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act) and I urge your support.

Data privacy is a major issue. In our society where surveillance cameras and internet trackers are commonplace, many moments of our lives are reduced to nothing more than data and potential profit for the companies who own that data. I am in support of any bill that restricts the sale of data of unconsenting people.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Little  
881 W Lombard St  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**SB0504\_FAV\_Maryland Just Power Alliance.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katie Wenger

Position: FAV



## Support the Data Privacy Act (SB0504)

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We are the [Maryland Just Power Alliance](#) (ACT, AIM, and PATH), a multi-racial, multi-faith, nonpartisan community power organization representing tens of thousands of Maryland residents. We organize people in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods to make Maryland a better place to live and thrive.

We are asking you to **support the Data Privacy Act (SB0504)** and pass it out of your committee.

Many of our faith traditions teach us to welcome the stranger and to remember the times we have been outsiders. It is our responsibility as a society to not only welcome migrants and newcomers but also to ensure that our neighbors can thrive in our communities.

In our [listening sessions last fall with over 3,000 Maryland residents](#), we asked people, “What is keeping you and your family from thriving?” One of the top concerns raised across a diverse range of people was the **violation of immigrants’ rights**.

**The Data Privacy Act would close loopholes** to protect Maryland residents’ personal data in state databases like driver’s license records from being shared with ICE. This is essential to protect people’s sensitive information from being misused by ICE.

This bill will ensure people can enroll their children in school, access healthcare, and apply for public benefits without fear of being tracked down by ICE. In addition, **protecting data privacy is important for all Maryland residents**, regardless of immigration status.

We are counting on you to pass a clean version of this bill out of your committee. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

**The Maryland Just Power Alliance**

**SB504 Written Testimony Submitted 02.24.2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Allison

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**  
**SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Allison, and I am a resident of Lusby, Calvert County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maryland Data Privacy Act (SB 504). In today's digital world, personal information is constantly collected, analyzed, and sold—often without individuals' knowledge or meaningful consent. Maryland residents deserve clear rights and protections over their personal data, and this legislation is an important step toward ensuring that privacy is respected and safeguarded.

The Maryland Data Privacy Act would give residents meaningful control over how their personal information is collected and used. By establishing rights such as the ability to access, correct, and delete personal data, the bill empowers individuals to understand and manage the information companies hold about them. These protections are increasingly necessary as more aspects of our daily lives—from health information to online activity—are tracked and monetized.

This legislation also promotes transparency and accountability. Companies that collect personal data should be responsible stewards of that information. Requiring clear privacy practices and responsible data handling helps prevent misuse, reduces the risk of data breaches, and builds trust between consumers and businesses.

Importantly, SB 504 positions Maryland as a leader in protecting residents in the digital age. Several states have begun adopting comprehensive privacy frameworks, and Maryland should ensure its residents receive strong, modern protections rather than falling behind.

Privacy is not a luxury—it is a fundamental expectation in a democratic society. The Maryland Data Privacy Act will help ensure that Marylanders' personal information is treated with the care and respect it deserves.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Sincerely,

Laura Allison  
Lusby, MD

**SB0504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Grothaus

Position: FAV

**SB0504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching  
System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Hearing before the Finance Committee, Feb. 26, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT (FAV)**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

My name is Laura Grothaus, and I am a community member in the Waverly neighborhood of Baltimore City. For years, I have been passionate about information privacy, following and supporting organizations like the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which works to defend civil liberties in the digital world. Government has a key role to play in this fight as it is challenging for citizens to control their data and live a life of digital connection.

You have an opportunity to protect the data of some of communities most vulnerable members this legislative session. SB0504 attempts to limit ICE's access to personal identifying information kept by the state. Limiting this access may save lives and is in line with similar actions that the state has taken in the past and in the present, such as the choice to sue the Trump administration to stop plans to convert a warehouse into an immigration detention facility in Washington County.

For this reason, I am urging you to issue a favorable report on SB0504.

With appreciation,

Laura Grothaus



**Moy\_SB504\_Feb-26-2026-4.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Moy

Position: FAV

Statement of

**Laura Moy, Associate Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center**

before the Senate Finance Committee

**Hearing on SB 504, Data Privacy – Consumer Data,  
Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

February 26, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for permitting me to share testimony on this important topic today. I am Laura Moy, an associate professor of law at Georgetown University, and a scholar of surveillance and privacy law.<sup>1</sup> I also direct the Communications & Technology Law Clinic at Georgetown, in which capacity I represent nonprofit clients on various matters at the intersection of law and technology. Among my clients is CASA, which I have been supporting on issues related to privacy legislation. In addition, I am a proud Marylander. I grew up in the state and have lived there for almost my entire life.

Over 20 years ago, when I graduated from the University of Maryland, I moved to New York and I went to work for the Manhattan DA’s office. During the years I spent there between college and law school, I used a lot of data. I served as an investigative analyst, helping to locate and investigate people using state records and also private data broker services. I learned how to process cell site location information – the same type of cell phone location records at issue in the *Carpenter* case decided in the Supreme Court a few years ago<sup>2</sup> – and by the end of my time there, I was a full-time location data analyst in the Computer Forensics Unit.<sup>3</sup>

And then I went to law school and I became a privacy lawyer, and it is in that capacity, with that context, that I appear before you today.

This is all to say that I understand the power of data well, and I understand how data from disparate sources can be pieced together to construct a detailed picture of

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<sup>1</sup> My full CV, including links to my scholarly writings and past legislative testimony, can be found at <https://lauramoy.com/>.

<sup>2</sup> See *Carpenter v. United States*, 585 U.S. 296 (2018).

<sup>3</sup> See Laura Moy, *I Used to Track Cell Phone Location Information for Prosecutors*, Hacker Noon (Nov. 28, 2017), <https://hackernoon.com/i-used-to-track-cell-phone-location-information-for-prosecutors-b0dbd4325997> [<https://perma.cc/BP2Q-V53T>].

someone's life. In fact, I think and worry about this a lot. I think about it when I order a prescription online. I think about it when I use a navigation app to try to figure out which route to my office in DC will be the least congested with rush hour traffic. I think about it when I pull up to the gate at a parking garage and, before I even reach out to push the button for a ticket, the gate lifts and the screen shows that my license plate number has been recorded. I think about it when my kid's school asks me to sign a consent form for apps and services that teachers may wish to use to support their teaching.

And, of course, I also think deeply about the power of data when I read story after story about ICE agents descending on Maryland homes and businesses to take people from their families and communities and send them hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

### **ICE has powerful surveillance capabilities fueled by for-profit data brokers.**

In the first nine months of the second Trump administration, ICE detained some 3,300 Marylanders.<sup>4</sup> This was done with the assistance of a vast surveillance network powered by private companies. Some highlights of ICE's astonishing surveillance capabilities:

- An ICE agent can search for the license plate of that person's car and receive a list of times and places where it has recently been spotted by cameras, as well as predictions about where it is likely to be seen in the future.<sup>5</sup> This tool can also be configured to send an agent a push notification when the vehicle is next seen.<sup>6</sup>
- ICE agents can also track a person's phone over time and even follow it from home to work.<sup>7</sup> They can even search for all of the phones in a particular neighborhood, then view the locations where all of those phones go when they leave the neighborhood to go to work or church.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Nicole Pilsbury, *More than 3,300 Marylanders Were Detained by ICE in 2025, Twice the Number of Preceding Years*, Maryland Matters (Jan. 11, 2026), <https://marylandmatters.org/2026/01/11/more-than-3300-marylanders-were-detained-by-ice-in-2025-twice-the-number-of-preceding-years/> [<https://archive.ph/O5bLN>].

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Cox, *This App Lets ICE Track Vehicles and Owners Across the Country*, 404 Media (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://www.404media.co/this-app-lets-ice-track-vehicles-and-owners-across-the-country/> [<https://archive.ph/LGkVd>].

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Joseph Cox, *Inside ICE's Tool to Monitor Phones in Entire Neighborhoods*, 404 Media (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.404media.co/inside-ices-tool-to-monitor-phones-in-entire-neighborhoods/> [<https://archive.ph/HYbBG>].

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

- An ICE agent can take a picture of a person’s face and then try to identify them in real time using facial recognition.<sup>9</sup> This tool has been known to make errors.<sup>10</sup>

The companies that provide ICE with these surveillance tools use troves of data to power their services. Among the data sources that fuel these surveillance capabilities are:

- A vast nationwide network of cameras, including speed cameras, security cameras, parking garage cameras, and cameras mounted on certain vehicles;<sup>11</sup>
- Location data brokers, which receive location data about individual people’s devices from a variety of sources, including ad networks, typically without people’s awareness;<sup>12</sup>
- State and local government records, such as records about people’s driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations,<sup>13</sup> and

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<sup>9</sup> Joseph Cox, *You Can’t Refuse To Be Scanned by ICE’s Facial Recognition App, DHS Document Says*, 404 Media (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://www.404media.co/you-cant-refuse-to-be-scanned-by-ices-facial-recognition-app-dhs-document-says/> [<https://archive.ph/Br5MT>].

<sup>10</sup> See Joseph Cox, *ICE’s Facial Recognition App Misidentified a Woman. Twice*, 404 Media (Jan. 19, 2026), <https://www.404media.co/ices-facial-recognition-app-misidentified-a-woman-twice/> [<https://archive.ph/oONPC>].

<sup>11</sup> See *Records Reveal ICE Using Mass Surveillance Database to Track People With Aid of Local Law Enforcement*, ACLU (Mar. 13, 2019), <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/records-reveal-ice-using-mass-surveillance-database-track-people-aid-local-law> (explaining that “Vigilant Solutions’ database allows the agency to pinpoint the locations of drivers going about their daily private lives, and gives it access to over 5 billion points of location information collected by private businesses like insurance companies and parking lots.”); Joseph Cox, *This App Lets ICE Track Vehicles and Owners Across the Country*, 404 Media (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://www.404media.co/this-app-lets-ice-track-vehicles-and-owners-across-the-country/> [<https://archive.ph/LGkVd>].

<sup>12</sup> See Joseph Cox, *Inside ICE’s Tool to Monitor Phones in Entire Neighborhoods*, 404 Media (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.404media.co/inside-ices-tool-to-monitor-phones-in-entire-neighborhoods/> [<https://archive.ph/HYbBG>].

<sup>13</sup> See DHS-ICE LexisNexis Accurant Summary of Data and Data Subscription Services obtained by Just Futures Law (Dec. 2021), <https://www.justfutureslaw.org/s/ICE-ERO-Accurant-Summary-Data-and-Data-Subscription-Services-InfoDec2021.pdf>, at 12 (explaining that the LexisNexis Accurant database in use by ICE “provides access to public records and state and local record management systems (RMS) and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data from over 1,500 agencies nationwide, all in one search.”). In addition to the records that data brokers claim to offer, it recently came to light that Maryland has been permitting ICE unfettered access to MVA records on an automated and instantaneous basis – despite the 2021 passage of the Maryland Driver Privacy Act prohibiting this. See *Wyden, Espaillat and 38 Members of Congress Urge Democratic Governors to Block ICE from Accessing Americans’ DMV Data* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wyden-espaillat-and-38-members-of-congress-urge-democratic-governors-to-block-ice-from-accessing-americans-dmv-data>.

- Federal records, such as tax and Medicaid records improperly shared with ICE.<sup>14</sup>

To rein in the improper collection, aggregation, and abuse of Marylanders' data, we must act now to pass the Maryland Data Privacy Act. It is particularly important to strengthen legal protections for location information about people and vehicles, and close loopholes that data brokers may be exploiting to share sensitive private information with law enforcement.

### **The Maryland Data Privacy Act is needed to rein in the for-profit surveillance industry.**

Fortunately for all of us sitting in this room, five years ago, with the support and leadership of many people in this room, Maryland passed the Maryland Driver Privacy Act. And two years ago, Maryland passed the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act, MODPA, which went into effect last October. These are strong state privacy laws working to safeguard both the information that the government holds about us and the data that private companies collect about us. And yet, in this moment, we are constantly being reminded of some of the ways in which these protections could be even stronger and clearer, and could better protect our friends, neighbors, and families from the data brokers and surveillance companies that ICE relies on. I'm here to talk about a few of those recommendations today.

1. **This bill would ensure that MODPA more clearly protects against the sale of vehicle location data.** Maryland's commercial privacy law applies heightened protection to a person's precise location.<sup>15</sup> And as we all know, most of the time – including when I am at home, at work, waiting to pick my child up from sports practice, or on the road between here and Bethesda – the location of my car is functionally equivalent to the location of me.<sup>16</sup> MODPA could be clearer

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<sup>14</sup> See Fatima Hussein, *Data of Thousands of Taxpayers Wrongly Shared with DHS, Court Filing Says*, PBS News, (Feb. 12, 2026) <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/data-of-thousands-of-taxpayers-wrongly-shared-with-dhs-court-filing-says> [<https://archive.ph/CvnXZ>].

<sup>15</sup> Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-4701(gg) (defining "sensitive data," which cannot be sold, to include "precise geolocation data").

<sup>16</sup> See *United States v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400 (2012).

about this.<sup>17</sup> As explained above, we know that this information is being collected and sold for profit,<sup>18</sup> including to ICE.<sup>19</sup> That information should not be for sale.

2. **This bill would narrow MODPA’s carve-out for “publicly available information.”** Maryland’s commercial privacy law generally does not apply to “publicly available information,” which makes sense. But the definition of what constitutes “publicly available” is overbroad.<sup>20</sup> Types of information that we consider sensitive, such as location data or data about a person’s religious beliefs or citizenship status, should never be considered “publicly available.” Even when we share this information with another party or allow the government to hold it, we still think of it as private. Maryland’s privacy law should be refined to clarify that sensitive information never falls within the “publicly available information” carve-out – it must always be protected.
3. **This bill would also narrow MODPA’s carve-out for sharing of information with law enforcement.** As currently written, MODPA explicitly does not restrict a data controller or processor’s ability to comply with a “civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, State, local, or other governmental authority.”<sup>21</sup> This is far too broad. When private companies, including data brokers, sell or share information with law enforcement, this enables law enforcement to make an end-run around the

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<sup>17</sup> Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-4701(x)(1) (defining “precise geolocation data” as “information derived from technology that can precisely and accurately identify the specific location of a *consumer*, within a radius of 1,750 feet”) (emphasis added).

<sup>18</sup> See *Law Enforcement and Technology: Use of Automated License Plate Readers*, CRS Report No. R48160 (Aug. 19, 2024), [https://www.congress.gov/crs\\_external\\_products/R/PDF/R48160/R48160.3.pdf](https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R48160/R48160.3.pdf); Jay Stanley, *Flock’s Aggressive Expansions Go Far Beyond Simple Driver Surveillance*, ACLU (Sep. 18, 2025), <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/flock-roundup>.

<sup>19</sup> Cooper Quintin, *ICE Is Going on a Surveillance Shopping Spree*, EFF (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2026/01/ice-going-surveillance-shopping-spree>; Joseph Cox, *This App Lets ICE Track Vehicles and Owners Across the Country*, 404 Media (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://www.404media.co/this-app-lets-ice-track-vehicles-and-owners-across-the-country/> [<https://archive.ph/LGkVd>].

<sup>20</sup> Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-4701(cc) (defining “publicly available information” generally to include information that a person “[l]awfully obtains from a record of a governmental entity,” “reasonably believes a consumer or widely distributed media have lawfully made available to the general public,” or “obtains from a person to whom the consumer disclosed the information”). For discussion of consumer complaints in another state regarding misuse of “publicly available” information, see Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, *CTDPA Enforcement Report 2025*, [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ag/press\\_releases/2026/annual-report-final-2.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ag/press_releases/2026/annual-report-final-2.pdf), at 2 (noting that a large portion of consumer complaints received “involved people search websites that purportedly combine ‘publicly available’ records” and that the profiles created based on these records “are a far cry from public information and should not be carved out from the reach of privacy enforcers,” and recommending legislative narrowing of “publicly available information” under Connecticut law to ensure coverage over data brokers).

<sup>21</sup> Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-4701(a)(2).

Fourth Amendment.<sup>22</sup> We're seeing this right now with ICE, buying access to troves of data that ICE then uses to build a detailed picture of Marylanders' lives and target individuals and communities for deportation. To help stem the flow, the law enforcement exception should be modified to establish a warrant standard in situations involving immigration enforcement.

4. **This bill also offers a series of minor revisions to the Maryland Public Information Act and Public Safety Article to clarify existing obligations of Maryland state and local government entities under the Maryland Driver Privacy Act.** Under that law, units of state and local government are required to deny access to records to those seeking access for the purpose of immigration enforcement unless presented with a valid judicial warrant.<sup>23</sup> This bill would add additional minor provisions to clarify that custodians of records must include this in their regulations and procedures, and must make some effort to find out whether seekers of records seek them for immigration enforcement purposes so that they know whether or not a warrant standard applies.
5. **Finally, this bill would also provide clarification regarding the important work state and local government entities are currently doing in coordination with the Department of IT, developing procedures to prevent the sale and redisclosure of public records.**<sup>24</sup> The bill would clarify that this work should include a particular emphasis on sensitive information, such as health data, citizenship status, and information about children.

Thank you for permitting me to testify in support of this important bill. I look forward to your questions.

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<sup>22</sup> See Anika Venkaesh & Lauren Yu, *DHS Is Circumventing Constitution by Buying Data It Would Normally Need a Warrant to Access*, ACLU (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/dhs-is-circumventing-constitution-by-buying-data-it-would-normally-need-a-warrant-to-access>.

<sup>23</sup> Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provis. § 4-320.1.

<sup>24</sup> Maryland HB 1222 (2025) (adding Md. Code Ann., St. Govt. §10-1702, directing governmental entities, in coordination with the Department of Information Technology, to develop and publish procedures preventing the sale and redisclosure of personal records and geolocation data shared with outside parties).

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504-FAVORABLE.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV



**Testimony on Senate Bill 504-Favorable**  
**SB504– Data Privacy-Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching Systems**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

IndivisibleHoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of **SB504-Data Privacy-Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching Systems (Data Privacy Act)**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

Every Maryland resident deserves the right to privacy and freedom from government and other agency surveillance. SB504 is designed to protect all of us from intrusive, unwarranted, and most certainly unwanted encroachment into our online presence.

Current Maryland law does not prevent third-party brokers from buying personal information collected by state agencies and selling that information to ICE and other federal agencies who will use it to facilitate deportation. This practice is contrary to Maryland's commitment to fairness and privacy. It also sets a dangerous precedent for giving the government access to anyone's personal data for any purpose at all.

SB504 closes this loophole and ensures that Maryland residents' private information is not for sale to any government agency and most specifically not to ICE.

Maryland has just banned 287g agreements statewide. Several counties have passed legislation to prevent development of private ICE detention centers and to prohibit public employees from sharing information about immigrants with ICE. SB504 is another way that our state can protect immigrants from detention and deportation.

According to the Comptroller of Maryland's 2024 State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy,

(<https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/reports/research/immigration-on-economy.pdf>) immigrants have contributed to our population growth and bolstered our economy. Immigrants in Maryland make up over 50% of the workforce in several occupations including home health aides, taxi drivers, housekeepers, and carpenters. They also make up 23% of the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce and 23% of registered nurses in Maryland (American Immigration Council. (2021). *Immigrants in Maryland*. American Immigration Council. <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/maryland/>)

Immigrants are essential and valued members of our population. We owe them support and protection. For this reason, IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD  
4642 Smokey Wreath Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
[Lliskin49@gmail.com](mailto:Lliskin49@gmail.com); 667-768-1494

# **Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable - Google**

Uploaded by: Letitia Robson

Position: FAV

## Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable

### SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Letitia Robson, and I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

When people are afraid of sharing their personal information, it inhibits their ability to participate in the basic functions of civic life. People should be able to get a driver's license without fear of their data going to ICE. This in turn makes us all safer.

I support HB711 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

Immigrants are an important part of our community, and we should be doing everything we can to protect them.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Letitia Robson

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 46**, and I am **testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act**.

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. We shut down their access to MVA data in 2021, but the increasing aggression of the Trump administration's anti-immigrant campaign means that federal authorities are now targeting every kind of state database, from utilities to Medicaid.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE. These databases don't even include immigration/citizenship data, which means that they can be combined with the total lack of oversight over immigration enforcement to allow targeting of people who have "foreign-sounding" names or live in particular areas. (As we've seen, ICE sweeps have been targeting anyone who looks Latino or has an accent.)

I had to accompany a close friend to renew her food stamps because although she is an American citizen, she is not white-passing and was afraid of what might happen. Now, apparently, she has to also worry that ICE will go snooping through Human Services' database and target her for "investigation." This is not the Maryland or the America I want to live in. We have a moral obligation to *not* contribute to this terror campaign, and that includes passive contributions like letting ICE freely access our private data.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Lindsay Keipper**

**2425 Fleet St.**

**Baltimore, MD**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

# Testimony for SB0504 -LG.pdf

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

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

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing **in support of SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

Our state has worked to preserve the fundamental rights of its residents and to protect their sensitive data. We applaud MGA for passing the Public Safety Section of 2021 Driver Privacy Protection Act, the Maryland Public Information Act and the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act. Loopholes exist, however, and in the spirit in which those bills were passed, it is imperative to close those loopholes.

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and safety and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk and trust is impaired. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

We want Marylanders to maintain trust in our state government and state agencies. That is important for public safety and state accountability. Please do your part by issuing **a favorable report on SB0504 - the Data Privacy Act. .**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Girdner

# Testimony SB 504.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Siano

Position: FAV

Hello. My name is Lisa Siano. I live in Columbia MD.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **Testimony on Senate Bill 0504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Sullivan

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0504– Favorable**  
**SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching**  
**System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

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

My name is Lisa Sullivan, and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act. I have been alarmed with the Federal Government's overreach of personal data collection since the early days of DOGE and the acknowledgement that Sensitive Data was not uploaded to non-secure databases. We cannot continue to have that occur at Federal and State levels.

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0504. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Sullivan, St. Mary's County, MD

# **TESTIMONY FOR SB0504\_ Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV



**Admin Team**  
**Email: [info@ibbmd.org](mailto:info@ibbmd.org)**  
Liz Enagonio  
Jasmine Gollup  
Amy Stevens  
Carriann Petersen

### **TESTIMONY FOR SB0504**

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

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Lam

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio, co-founder

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of SB0504** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

Current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow third parties to collect and sell sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). SB0504 would prohibit third parties from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement. It would require a custodian of a public record to take reasonable steps to determine whether a public record is accessed for enforcing immigration law. This bill protects geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. As a community member who has seen my immigrant neighbors pull their children out of school, avoid medical appointments, and refuse to renew their Medicaid registration out of fear of being hunted down through public records and wrongfully deported, I understand the raw fear these loopholes can cause. For these reasons, IBBMD urges that you support SB0504 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

**SB504 Data Privacy Act EconAction FAV.docx (2).pdf**

Uploaded by: Marceline White

Position: FAV



**SB504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
Data Privacy Act  
Position: Favorable**

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Senate Finance

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in strong support of SB504. Economic Action serves more than 2000 Marylanders a year through our fair housing, tenant advocacy, and Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) program. Many of the clients we serve are immigrants—both those who have been established in Maryland for a long time and newly arrived.

Data privacy has been a core consumer protection concern for Economic Action Maryland Fund. We have advocated for state strong protections via the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA) of 2024, for kids' online privacy and safety, as well as the use of data and data brokers for debt collection and debt buyers.

SB504 is uphold's Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are critical at this juncture to protect personal data, expand privacy, and restore trust between residents and state agencies.

For all these reasons, we support SB504 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director

*Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.*

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | [www.econaction.org](http://www.econaction.org)  
Marceline White · [Marceline@EconAction.org](mailto:Marceline@EconAction.org) | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · [Jennifer@EconAction.org](mailto:Jennifer@EconAction.org)



*Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.*

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**SB0504 written testimony final.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marcia Coe

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable  
SB0504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching  
System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Marcia Coe and I am a resident of Leonardtown, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB0504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I support SB0504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. It is a particular problem if the data is wrong or inaccurate in any way. As a victim of identity theft, I can vouch that this can be expensive and inconvenient. For some people it can be endangering.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Coe, MD  
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

# **SB504Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary Anne Newkirk

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)  
Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Mary Anne Newkirk. I live in Columbia, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

ICE actions over the past year have clearly demonstrated that rule of law is a foreign phrase to them. Not only are its employees violating immigrants' constitutional rights, they abuse immigrants once they are in ICE's custody. ICE is using any means available to meet their mass deportation quotas. In their haste, they have wrongfully detained American citizens caught in their net.

State and local authorities must explore all avenues to protect their residents from ICE overreach. They also must act in ways that remind ICE and the Trump administration that this is a country governed by rule of law

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Mary Anne Newkirk**  
**Columbia Maryland**

# **SB 0504 - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Messa**

Uploaded by: Mary Beck

Position: FAV

Mary Beck  
1317 Maple Ave  
Halethorpe, MD 21227  
District 44B

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and  
Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Feb 26, 2026

TO: Chair Pamela Beidle & Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Mary Beck

Members of the Finance Committee, my name is Mary Beck, I live in Halethorpe, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0504, part of the Data Privacy Act.

Consumers do everything we can to protect our passwords and identities online - what is that worth if companies will simply sell our data to the highest bidder?

We cannot trust that companies will not act in their best financial interest over our individual privacy's interest. In a society where it has become nearly impossible to completely opt out of using online services, no one should be forced to sacrifice their privacy to someone who wants to purchase their information, for any purpose that the purchaser can think of.

I urge you to support SB 0504 and help protect us from unnecessary privacy violations by private companies just looking to make money at the expense of our personal liberties.

# **Data Privacy - SB504 Testimony\_kaiser.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary Kaiser

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Elizabeth Kaiser, and I am a resident of Clarksville in Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in **support of SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Current technology is not only enabling access to and the broad dissemination of personal data, it is also expanding the scope of the personal data that can be obtained. Under this evolving expansion of available personal data and the increased ease of access to this data, it is necessary to be vigilant in protecting the privacy and personal rights of individuals. The ease and scope of personal data collection should not become a tool enabling ethnic and racial profiling for federal exploitation of immigrants and non-immigrants alike.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should not be a conduit for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Kaiser

# **Badeker\_SB504 - Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melissa Badeker

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 43A**. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain. **It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

Sincerely,

Melissa Badeker  
2800 N. Calvert St. Apt T1  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **SB504 - Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Bayrd

Position: FAV



## 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.



# **Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAVSB504\_.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2026

SB504

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

**Finance Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 504**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

The Data Privacy Act seeks to strengthen Maryland's protections over sensitive consumer information by preventing the sale or transfer of personal data to any entity that intends to use that information for immigration enforcement. The bill also requires custodians of public records to exercise due diligence in determining whether access requests relate to immigration law enforcement and ensures that message switching systems are operated with safeguards to prevent misuse.

**Senate Bill 504** safeguards the privacy and dignity of Marylanders by closing loopholes that allow personal data to be misused by third parties. It reinforces transparency, accountability, and trust between the public and the institutions that collect and manage their data. By preventing consumer data from becoming a tool for unnecessary fear or punitive enforcement, the bill provides a clear and tangible benefit to immigrant communities, families, and all individuals who depend on the integrity of public systems for their safety and well-being.

This legislation would help Maryland communities by ensuring that personal information remains protected and is used only for lawful and ethical purposes. Families often live under the stress that a simple data breach can disrupt their stability, employment, or safety. Protecting data at the governmental and system levels strengthens public trust and promotes a society in which individuals feel secure engaging in civic life, using public services, and participating fully in their communities. The misuse of personal data can lead to fear, exploitation, or harm—particularly among immigrant populations who already face heightened vulnerability. The Data Privacy Act affirms that each person is more than information to be traded; they are a child of God deserving of safety, respect, and protection.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 504**.

# **SB 504 Data Privacy PJC FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicole Tortoriello

Position: FAV



Nicole Tortoriello, Managing Attorney  
Workplace Justice Project  
Public Justice Center  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
410-625-9409, ext. 279  
tortoriellon@publicjustice.org

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## SB 504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, on February 26, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

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The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty law firm which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. The PJC provides advice and representation to clients with low-income, advocates before legislatures and government agencies, and collaborates with community and advocacy organizations; we actively incorporate anti-racism and racial equity goals into our advocacy work. Our organization frequently represents and partners with immigrants and immigrant communities impacted by this legislation. For example, we represent immigrant clients in eviction cases and cases seeking to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair. We represent immigrant workers whose employers are paying less than minimum wage, denying overtime benefits, or unlawfully classifying them as contractors. We represent clients with limited English proficiency in obtaining timely, meaningful access to public services and health care when they have been denied their right to free language assistance services. We also represent the children of immigrants who have been unfairly excluded from educational opportunities and immigrant residents who have been wrongfully denied public benefits.

SB 504 provides critical safeguards against loopholes that entities can take advantage of to obtain personal information for the purposes of immigration enforcement. Data brokers hold tremendously detailed information about virtually every person in the country, including information about people's addresses, financial transactions, relationships, and detailed location from tracking people's phones and cars. Data brokers are largely unregulated and aggregate and make all of this sensitive information available for purchase. Immigration authorities are able to simply buy it without any court oversight or transparency, circumventing due process and accountability. For example, researchers have uncovered ICE's purchase of detailed cell phone location information and phone, water, electricity, and other utility records.

**PJC's clients and Maryland communities will be irreparably harmed by ICE practices unless the General Assembly passes SB 504.** Our renter-clients who are immigrants are already often terrified to come to court to defend their eviction cases or to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of

*The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.*

disrepair. At times their landlords have threatened to call ICE if they complain about the lack of heat or collapsing roof. Our renter-clients who are immigrants are concerned that if they participate in a court action, ICE could gain access to case information to facilitate deportation. Our renter-clients are even sometimes concerned about reaching out for legal advice or representation to defend their cases out of fear that such information could be provided to ICE. When renters do not defend court cases and are subsequently evicted, the entire state suffers. [Preventing eviction saves the state money by reducing homelessness and state-funded safety net costs](#) related to shelter, educating students experiencing homelessness, health care, foster care, decreased incarceration, and the economic impacts of increased employment and income stability. Additionally, when renter-immigrants are terrified of coming to court because their information could be shared with ICE, they are much less likely to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions through a court action – which means that the whole neighborhood suffers from the blight and decay perpetuated by negligent property owners.

Similarly, in our representation of immigrant-workers, our clients will be less likely to report an employer who paid them below minimum wage or failed to pay them overtime if they think that ICE could gain access to information about their workplace or case information. We have seen firsthand that fewer workers are willing to come forward and participate in wage theft cases because they fear drawing attention to themselves in the current climate of ICE enforcement. When one worker's rights go unenforced, it weakens the rights of all workers. Unscrupulous employers and landlords will exploit these fears to prevent workers and tenants from speaking up for their rights.

SB 504 also provides important protections for clients of the PJC's Education Stability Project, which advances equity in public education by combatting discipline practices that disproportionately push Black and brown children, and children with disabilities, out of school. The threat and fear of immigration enforcement also impedes equitable access to school and infringes upon the right of all Maryland children to receive a public education regardless of immigration status. SB 504 is necessary to protect that right. In [guidance on immigration enforcement actions at Maryland schools issued in 2025](#), the Maryland State Department of Education noted that various existing laws protect the confidentiality of student records and advised local school officials to cooperate with law enforcement and federal immigration authorities "in accordance with their school district policies and guidelines and in consultation with their attorneys." This guidance is insufficient to protect students and assuage their credible fears, particularly given the current climate in Maryland schools. For instance, in a [February 2025 social media post tagging ICE](#), an Overlea High School teacher stated: "If you want the names to investigate families to find illegals, let me know in dm [direct message], . . . "I'll give names and school. All in Md." SB 504's clear mandate of a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court, and penalties for violations, is vital to ensuring student privacy and protecting the right of all children to attend school in Maryland.

Our Health and Benefits Equity Project along with our community partners have observed a significant chilling effect with immigrant clients applying for safety net services, including SNAP and Medicaid, because of increased ICE activity around the country. We advocate to protect and expand access to healthcare and safety net services for individuals and families with low incomes. We support policies and practices that are designed to eliminate economic and racial inequities and enable every Marylander to attain their highest level of health. Several of our clients who are immigrants have expressed extreme reluctance to apply for safety net services for which they or their children are eligible because they are terrified that their household's information may be obtained by ICE and used to rip their family apart. This

includes immigrant birthing people who have shared with us that they are terrified to apply for Medicaid coverage for which they are eligible through the Healthy Babies Equity Act, an important program expansion passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022 to ensure that birthing people, regardless of immigration status, have access to comprehensive, quality care during their pregnancy and postpartum journey and for their baby. Our immigrant client communities are carrying the immense emotional burden of choosing between their household's ability to thrive or risking their immediate physical safety. SB 504 would help ease some of the worry present in these communities by adding much-needed protections against data sharing. It would also complement the incredible efforts our State has made to reduce health disparities.

This legislation is crucial not only for protecting the privacy of all Maryland residents, but also for fostering trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. By clearly delineating the boundaries of federal immigration enforcement within our state, we promote the values of dignity, safety, and fairness.

In 2021, this legislature took action to protect immigrants and safeguard their sensitive data. Public Justice Center once again calls on this Committee to act and provide a **favorable report on SB 504**.

**WeAreCASA\_FAV\_SB504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ninfa Amador-Hernandez

Position: FAV



## Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 504

SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

We Are CASA (formerly, "CASA") is pleased to offer **favorable testimony** in **support** of **SB 504** - Data Privacy -

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

We Are CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in the working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

### **1. The Threat of Data Weaponization is Becoming Increasingly Dangerous for Immigrants**

Today, We Are CASA members and communities face escalating threats fueled by the misuse of personal data. Immigration enforcement agencies, particularly ICE, are leveraging vast amounts of commercially available and government-held data to target individuals who engage in civic life, advocate for their rights, or simply seek to live and work in dignity. When paired with powerful new technologies, unrestricted access to personal data becomes a tool of surveillance, intimidation, and discrimination.

Below are just a few examples of the many that should give Maryland pause.

- In Minnesota, ICE has used available data to find protestors' homes and harass both protestors and their families there, threatening them for engaging in First

Amendment rights and speaking out against ICE’s brutal and deadly campaign in the state.<sup>1</sup>

- The Department of Homeland Security continues to push for big tech companies, search engine owners, and social media sites to expose “Anti-ICE Accounts” through hundreds of administrative subpoenas, “apparently using them to silence people who speak out”.<sup>2 3</sup>
- Currently, with only a search of a person’s license plate or a scan of a person’s face through an app, ICE can widely mine data to identify individuals to retaliate against and harass. These data sources include housing and labor data, smartphone location data, credit header data, marriage records, and voter registration, to name a few.<sup>4 5</sup>

Data brokers profit from this abuse of Marylanders’ data, and are largely unregulated by governments that have failed to keep up with rapidly changing technology landscapes.<sup>6 7</sup>

## 2. A Maryland Case: We Are CASA Member José Hernandez

This is not a distant concern. It has already been happening here in Maryland.

In early February 2020, longtime CASA member José Hernandez experienced firsthand how government-held data can be weaponized. One morning, his family heard a knock at their door. When one of his children opened it, ICE agents entered the home, arrested Mr. Hernandez, and took him away as his children watched. Mr. Hernandez had lived in the United States for decades. He had no criminal history and no prior encounters with law enforcement or immigration authorities. He had not missed a court date.

ICE agents told him they found him because he had recently obtained a Maryland driver’s license. They used the personal information he provided to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration - including his name, address, and date of birth - to locate him, arrest him, detain him in an immigration facility, and initiate deportation proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> Jonah Bromwich, *ICE Agents Menaced Minnesota Protesters at Their Homes, Filings Say*, The New York Times (Feb. 13, 2026) <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/13/us/minneapolis-ice-FirstAmendmentagents-protester-home-visits.html>

<sup>2</sup> Sheera Frenkel and Mike Isaac, *Homeland Security Wants Social Media Sites to Expose Anti-ICE Accounts*, The New York Times (Feb. 13, 2026).

<sup>3</sup> Nick Mordowanec, *DHS Collecting Big Tech Users' Personal Data, Issuing Subpoenas For ICE-Related Criticism*, Military.com (Feb. 18, 2026) <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2026/02/17/dhs-collecting-big-tech-users-personal-data-issuing-subpoenas-ice-related-criticism.html>

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Cox, *This App Lets ICE Track Vehicles and Owners Across the Country*, 404 Media (Nov. 17, 2025) <https://archive.ph/LGkVd#selection-529.0-529.62>

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Cox, *You Can't Refuse To Be Scanned by ICE's Facial Recognition App, DHS Document Says*, 404 Media (Oct. 31, 2025) <https://archive.ph/Br5MT#selection-529.0-529.81>

<sup>6</sup> *Data Brokers*, Electronic Privacy Information Center <https://epic.org/issues/consumer-privacy/data-brokers/>

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Goitein and Emile Ayoub, *Data Brokers Are Running Wild, and Only Congress Can Rein Them In*, Brennan Center (Feb. 13, 2024) <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/data-brokers-are-running-wild-and-only-congress-can-rein-them>

Later that month, The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun reported that ICE had not only searched Maryland drivers' personal information, but had also conducted facial recognition searches using drivers' license photos. These warrantless searches were not limited to undocumented immigrants or "standard" license holders. ICE accessed a state facial recognition database containing more than 4 million Maryland driver records.

### **3. The Chilling Effect on Immigrant Communities in Maryland: What We See Through Direct Services**

For We Are CASA members, this is not theoretical. We see the consequences every day through the direct services CASA provides to thousands of Marylanders.

We Are CASA operates Employment Centers in Silver Spring, Wheaton, Rockville, and Baltimore, where workers seek day labor opportunities and stable employment. We provide vocational training in electrical work, building maintenance, HVAC, and computer skills. We assist small business owners with licensing and compliance. We offer legal consultations in immigration, housing, and employment matters. We provide English classes (ESOL), immigrant integration services, citizenship and green card renewal assistance, tax preparation services including ITIN applications, a health hotline, and social services support for health coverage, food assistance, and other public benefits. Across all these services, We Are CASA handles approximately 1,800 cases per month in Maryland alone, primarily serving immigrant communities.

Across all of these programs, we hear the same concern: Will my information be shared? Will this put my family at risk? Could this result in my deportation?

Immigrant workers hesitate before applying for licenses or certifications. Our team has witnessed parents worried about updating their address with state agencies. Families ask whether filing taxes, applying for health insurance, renewing a green card, or pursuing citizenship could expose them to immigration enforcement. Individuals are increasingly cautious about engaging with any institution that collects personal data, even if they meet the program's eligibility requirements.

This fear has real consequences. When Marylanders reasonably believe their personal information may be accessed and used for immigration enforcement, they withdraw. They avoid schools, hospitals, stable employment, banks, courthouses, law enforcement, and government offices. They delay seeking medical care. They decline workforce training opportunities. They forgo legal remedies. They are far more likely to face eviction. They disengage from civic participation.

This chilling effect undermines public safety, public health, workforce development, and the fundamental promise of equal access to services in Maryland. It creates barriers not only for undocumented residents, but for mixed-status families and even citizens who fear that their data could be misused.

Protecting data privacy is therefore not merely a technological issue - it is essential to maintaining trust between Maryland residents and the institutions that serve them.

These indiscriminate surveillance and enforcement activities force We Are CASA members and the broader community to wake up each morning in a constant state of fear. This is a natural response when ICE has been targeting citizens and noncitizens alike while the Trump administration erodes paths to citizenship and lawful status that have been cornerstones of our democracy since the end of slavery, including birthright citizenship.<sup>8</sup> In fact, people who are reasonably fearful that their data may be provided to actors who seek to erode their civil liberties are far less likely to reach out for help when needed, and tend to avoid institutions necessary for leading a full life as a Marylander like schools, places of stable employment, hospitals, banks, courthouses, the police, and government offices.<sup>9</sup>

When Marylanders are made fearful and shy away from public institutions due to fears that their data may be turned over to ICE, our state props up a modern-day version of segregation that prevents Marylanders from living with equal access to government services, education, and more. Ending discrimination through data is a necessary step in this longstanding fight for equality for all in Maryland.

#### **4. SB 504 Continues Our Commitment to Maryland Drivers**

Maryland has already recognized the importance of protecting immigrant communities while advancing public safety.

In 2013, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Highway Safety Act, allowing undocumented Maryland residents to obtain a driver's license for limited purposes.<sup>10</sup> This landmark legislation enabled the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to administer written and road tests to undocumented drivers, allowing insurance companies to issue liability coverage. It improved road safety, strengthened accountability, and enabled families to drive legally to work, take children to school, attend medical appointments, and meet the demands of everyday life without being forced to break the law.

At the time, legislators assured immigrant communities that they could apply for licenses safely. In response, We Are CASA worked closely with our membership and the broader undocumented community to help residents apply for driver's licenses through our driver's license and tax assistance programs. Hundreds of immigrants entrusted the MVA with their personal information based on the promise that doing so would increase safety, not expose them to deportation.

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<sup>8</sup> Kori Skillman, *Indiscriminate ICE arrests have left Baltimore's immigrant communities in a constant state of fear and anxiety*, Baltimore Beat (Oct. 7, 2025). <https://baltimorebeat.com/indiscriminate-ice-arrests-have-left-baltimores-immigrant-communities-in-a-constant-state-of-fear-and-anxiety,driver's/>

<sup>9</sup> Sarah Brayne, *Surveillance and System Avoidance: Criminal Justice Contact and Institutional Attachment*, 79, Iss. 3 American Sociological Review (2014). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0003122414530398>

<sup>10</sup> Maryland Highway Safety Act, Transportation Article § 16-122 (2013). <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/sb0715/?ys=2013rs>

When it became public that ICE had used Maryland driver's license data and facial recognition searches to identify and target immigrants, the sense of betrayal in our community was profound. Families who had complied with state law and acted in good faith found themselves arrested, detained, and placed in deportation proceedings.

Reports surfaced of ICE agents conducting targeted stops in Maryland communities, including near apartment complexes in Catonsville, already knowing the names of registered drivers. For many of those residents, the only time they had provided their name and address to a government database was when applying for a Maryland driver's license.

The consequences of detention and deportation are catastrophic for the individual, for their children, and for the broader community. Parents are separated from U.S. citizen children. Workers are removed from the economy. Families are forced to return to countries they fled due to violence or instability, or where they have no remaining ties.

Likely over 350,000 undocumented immigrants live in Maryland — nearly 32 percent of the state's immigrant population and approximately 5.8 percent of the total state population.<sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> 13.9% of K-12 students in Maryland have an undocumented immigrant parent in their household.<sup>13</sup> When ICE is able to mine state-collected data for immigration enforcement purposes, it places a substantial portion of Maryland residents in renewed jeopardy and undermines the very public safety goals the legislature sought to advance in 2013.

In 2021, Maryland took an important step forward by passing the Driver Privacy Act.<sup>14</sup> That law required federal authorities to obtain a warrant supported by probable cause to access MVA driver data; required state agencies to report on federal data requests; prohibited state and local agencies from participating in federal immigration enforcement; prohibited the use of state facial recognition databases for immigration enforcement; and established guardrails to prevent misuse of state databases.

However, loopholes remain. Federal immigration authorities may still access driver data through interstate systems and data-sharing programs such as NLETS.

SB 504 ensures that Maryland closes those remaining gaps. It strengthens and completes the protections the General Assembly has already recognized as necessary, ensuring that the promise made to immigrant families in 2013 is fully honored.

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<sup>11</sup> Pew Research Center, "U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population Reached a Record 14 Million in 2023: Preliminary data indicates continued growth into 2024 and a decrease in 2025" <https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2025/08/21/u-s-unauthorized-immigrant-population-reached-a-record-14-million-in-2023/>

<sup>12</sup> Unauthorized immigrants and characteristics for states, 2023, Pew Research Center (2023). [https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewresearch.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F20%2F2025%2F08%2FRE\\_2025.08.21\\_Unauthorized-immigrants\\_datailed-tables\\_characteristics-for-states.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pewresearch.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F20%2F2025%2F08%2FRE_2025.08.21_Unauthorized-immigrants_datailed-tables_characteristics-for-states.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Maryland Driver Privacy Act, General Provisions Article § 4-320, § 4-320.1, Public Safety Article § 3-523 (2021). <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0023/?ys=2021rs>

## 5. Senate Bill 504 Provides Targeted Protections for All Marylanders

Although much of this testimony has focused on the impact of data misuse within immigrant drivers and communities, SB 504 advances privacy protections that benefit all Maryland residents.

Maryland has already demonstrated leadership in this area. The Maryland Driver Privacy Act and the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA), which took effect last year, established meaningful safeguards for personal information held by both government agencies and private entities. SB 504 builds upon that framework by clarifying existing provisions and addressing gaps that have become apparent in practice.

Senate Bill 504, carefully tailored to be limited in scope, would help to put a stop to the funnel of data to ICE. It would do so by:

- Maintaining a limited scope that prevents immigration enforcement agencies from accessing data for immigration enforcement purposes;
- Clarifying that vehicle locations are sensitive information that companies cannot share or sell, closing a loophole, and protecting sensitive location data that ICE uses to detain and harass Marylanders wherever they park their car, including at schools, home, and work;
- Requiring the adoption of regulations and procedures to ensure compliance with the 2021 Driver Privacy Act by state and local agencies and entities.
- Strengthening protections of information that contains “sensitive attributes,” carefully limiting access to data which should remain public, but protecting private data that is deeply personal like a person’s sexual orientation, citizenship status, and religious beliefs;
- Generally, restricting the processing of information for the sole purpose of immigration enforcement;
- And by clarifying how state and local governments can work with the Department of IT to create procedures that prevent the sale and disclosure of public records.

These provisions are not limited to any one population. They strengthen the overall integrity of Maryland’s data privacy and ensure that personal information collected for legitimate government or commercial purposes is not repurposed in ways that undermine public trust.

These protections are reasonable, measured, and necessary. They help ensure that Marylanders can participate fully in public life without fear that their personal data will be weaponized against them.

**For these reasons, We Are CASA urges a favorable report on SB 504.**

Contact: Cathryn Jackson [cjackson@wearecasa.org](mailto:cjackson@wearecasa.org)

**SB504\_MSEA\_Lemle\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Lemle

Position: FAV

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

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 26, 2026**

**Paul Lemle**  
**MSEA President**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 504, which would prevent a controller from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement, which includes the data of children.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 504 is part of several legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. Students have a right to be safe at school, which includes knowing that their personal information will not be distributed or misused. This principle was well established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and this legislation builds on existing law by ensuring that children's data will not be sold for the purpose of immigration enforcement. We see the effects of escalations in dangerous immigration enforcement tactics in classrooms: empty seats, disrupted learning, rising fear, and growing demand for mental health support. Students cannot learn when they are afraid for their safety or the safety of their families.

Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in schools, and also to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe this is more than an immigration issue. This is a human rights issue, a civil rights issue, and a democracy issue.

**MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 504.**

# **Eckel FAV SB504 - Data Privacy Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rianna Eckel

Position: FAV

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

My name is Rianna Eckel, I am a resident of District 43A and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore is a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. **I am writing in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE.

These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rianna Eckel  
2300 Hunter St, Baltimore 21218  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **Testimony in support of SB0504 - Data Privacy Act.**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0504\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/26/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0504- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0504, Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers reports *The Data Broker Loophole is Being Exploited to Target Immigrant Communities - Purchased data circumvents sanctuary laws and contributes to the over-surveillance of the movements and behavior of immigrant communities.*<sup>1</sup>

The American Immigration Council notes *ICE Uses a Growing Web of AI Services to Power Its Immigration Enforcement and Surveillance*<sup>2</sup>

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released an updated version of its [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Use Case Inventory](#) this summer. At first glance, the changes seemed routine—some AI software programs were marked “inactive,” and a new one was added. But upon closer examination, the removal of the AI use cases does not appear to indicate a retreat from—but an expansion of—those AI capabilities.

Taken alongside reporting from [The Guardian](#) and [Wired](#), the update points to broader trends in immigration enforcement: deploying similar AI functions within larger vendor-run platforms and expanding into continuous surveillance systems that pull in and analyze far more information than before.

Recognizing these misuses of personal data, the intent of this bill is to prohibit a certain controller - from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement; requiring a custodian of a public record to take reasonable steps to determine whether a public record is accessed for enforcing immigration law; requiring an entity that operates a certain message switching system to take certain actions regarding system access; requiring certain procedures of certain governmental entities to account for data containing sensitive attributes; etc.

Maryland can and will protect all of its resident’s data from this misappropriation.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0504.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nacdl.org/getattachment/567b4c71-b702-47d7-a59c-1e42f39b065a/immigration-and-data-purchases.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/ice-uses-ai-immigration-enforcement-surveillance/>

## **2.24 - SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Publ**

Uploaded by: Robin McKinney

Position: FAV



**SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

**SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 504. This bill strengthens Maryland's data privacy laws by expanding protections for personal and sensitive data, limiting the use of data for immigration enforcement purposes, and increasing safeguards around public records and law enforcement databases.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

CASH strongly supported the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024 (HB 567) because it increased consumer data rights protections and strengthened Maryland's role as a national leader in privacy policy. That legislation recognized that data privacy is about financial security, consumer protection, and preventing harm from misuse of sensitive information. SB 504 builds on that foundation by closing critical loopholes that continue to put Marylanders at risk.

Loopholes still allow sensitive information collected by state agencies to be accessed through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. SB 504 ensures that state agencies are not pipelines for immigration enforcement and strengthens protections around driver data, public records requests, geolocation data, and message switching systems.

Many of our clients are ITIN holders which are individuals who file and pay taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. These Marylanders contribute to our economy, pay state and local taxes, and seek driver's licenses or interact with state agencies to comply with the law and support their families. We see what happens to clients when they fear that their personal information like driver data, tax records, or other state-collected data, could be shared or accessed for immigration enforcement purposes. These consequences include:

- Families avoiding applying for driver's licenses, even when legally eligible,
- Workers hesitating to file taxes, claim credits, or access financial services, and
- Parents avoiding interacting with state agencies out of fear that routine information sharing could place their household at risk.

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*



This fear undermines financial stability, economic mobility, and our ability to serve the community. We work to connect families to tax credits like the EITC and CTC, to safe and affordable banking options, and other services across the state. These efforts depend on trust. When data privacy protections are weak and unclear, it erodes the trust that our clients have for the system. SB 504 restores and strengthens that trust.

Maryland has already demonstrated leadership in consumer protection. SB 504 continues that work by ensuring that privacy protections are meaningful in practice. State agencies should serve as a shield that protects Marylanders' information and not act as a conduit through which it can be misused.

***Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 504.***

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*

# **Immigration Testimony in Favor of SB 1575nnData**

Uploaded by: Rosanne Hanratty

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data  
Privacy Act)\  
Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026**

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

I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland and chair the Immigration Mobilization Committee of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Community Baltimore. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

My support of legislation protecting Maryland's immigrant population is grounded in my faith, personal experience, and my role as citizen.

My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care. Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we as a parish publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially those detained by to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in that building.

I support SB504 because loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust, and endangering families. This bill closes those loopholes by preventing these third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, preventing records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation.

These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws fulfill their purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just that of immigrants. State agencies should not be a conduit for ICE.

While not an immigrant, I have had experience with my personally identifiable data being used in furtherance of a fraudulent application for Maryland Unemployment Insurance benefits--***while I was on leave from my employment with the State of Maryland to receive cancer treatment!*** It very much concerned me that the fraudsters had apparently obtained information that I was not able to work because of a very serious illness and used that information to file the application.

I also worked for approximately 22 years at the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Maryland. I can attest to the care with which the agency and its employees

protected beneficiary and applicant information. I was aghast that DOGE employees, and subsequently the Department of Homeland Security, reportedly obtained such data for the purpose of using it to identify individuals for immigration enforcement.

While the state of Maryland cannot act directly to protect data in federal databases, it can act to protect the data of everyone in Maryland whose data is stored in state databases, and prevent that data from being accessed, sold to data brokers and being used by ICE.

Based upon my work on behalf of immigrants, my experience with fraudulent use of my own personally identifiable information, and my long professional experience working for an agency charged with protection of some of the most sensitive information about individuals, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rosanne B. Hanratty  
Ellicott City, MD

# **Immigration Testimony in Favor of SB 1575nnData**

Uploaded by: Rosanne Hanratty

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data  
Privacy Act)\**  
**Finance Committee**  
**February 26, 2026**

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

I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland and chair the Immigration Mobilization Committee of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Community Baltimore. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act.**

My support of legislation protecting Maryland's immigrant population is grounded in my faith, personal experience, and my role as citizen.

My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care. Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we as a parish publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially those detained by to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in that building.

I support SB504 because loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust, and endangering families. This bill closes those loopholes by preventing these third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, preventing records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation.

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Ellicott City, MD

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**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data  
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Finance Committee  
February 26, 2026**

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My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care. Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we as a parish publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially those detained by to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in that building.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Rosanne B. Hanratty  
Ellicott City, MD

# **data privacy act testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roslyn Zinner

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Roslyn Zinner, and I am a resident of Columbia, in Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

**I am a clinical social worker and privacy is a key element of my work with clients. On a personal note, two days ago I returned from out of the country to find that someone had hacked into my bank account and tried to take money out. They also used my credit card to pay hundreds of dollars of toll charges. I was very lucky, I didn't lose any money, but it scared the heck out of me and we are still trying to figure out how this happened. This can happen to anyone.**

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Roslyn Zinner**  
**8112 Sea Water Path**  
**Columbia, MD 21045**  
[rozzinner@gmail.com](mailto:rozzinner@gmail.com)  
**410-934-2442**

**FAVORABLE SB504\_Samantha Hodge-Williams.pdf**

Uploaded by: Samantha Hodge-Williams

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Beldle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Samantha Hodge-Williams, and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

Like many Americans, especially who live in rural areas like Garrett County, I value our rights to privacy. We do not want the government or companies sharing our personal data or geolocations, either for profit or to other governmental agencies, except for the intended purpose related to traffic notices or violent crimes.

We all need to be able to participate in and trust our state government's protections and systems. However, the risk of data sharing undermines this.

Our community has raised money for scholarships for community college students. We were horrified to learn that students of immigrant families may endanger their loved ones' safety by completing a FAFSA to be eligible for most tuition assistance and scholarships. This is a decision no student should ever face. We would like instead to be able to permit students to use the **Maryland Higher Education Commission MDCAP's system** to prove financial need eligibility, without fear that the data will be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers.

We also encourage local residents to pursue trade skills and licenses, both to improve their lives and to support our community with qualified professionals. It benefits the state to have more qualified, registered trades professionals paying annual fees and taxes. We need to protect **Maryland's registration & licensing trade data** from misuse so all our skilled trade workers can be compliant and safe as officially licensed Maryland professionals. Fear of data sharing should not undermine participating in our important state licensing systems.

These are just two of many reasons I support these commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **SB504 Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: sharlimar douglass

Position: FAV



## **SB504 Data Privacy-Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Position: Favorable**

**February 26, 2026**

The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland's education system, **offers favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 504, the Data Privacy Act.** This bill is the necessary complement to Maryland's historic decision last week to end 287(g) agreements between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. Ending those formal partnerships was essential. But in an era when data brokers, public records systems, and law enforcement communication networks can be weaponized to accomplish the same targeting goals through the back door, we must ensure that Maryland's commitment to protecting its communities extends to every avenue through which personal information can be used as an instrument of surveillance and enforcement. SB504 does exactly that.

The Trump administration's immigration enforcement apparatus does not rely primarily on tips from local law enforcement. It relies on data — purchased from commercial brokers, extracted from public records systems, and accessed through interstate law enforcement communication networks. A person's name, address, driver's license record, cell phone location history, and vehicle registration can be assembled from commercially available sources into a targeting profile without a warrant, without probable cause, and without any of the constitutional protections that govern formal law enforcement activity. This is not a hypothetical vulnerability. It is the documented operational model of ICE and its data partners.

For Black, Latino, and immigrant communities in Maryland, the threat is compounded by the ways in which race, ethnicity, and national origin are embedded — explicitly or implicitly — in the data being collected and shared. The bill recognizes this by including race, ethnicity, health, sexual orientation, citizenship status, and precise location among the sensitive attributes that require heightened procedural protection. These are not incidental categories. They are the categories along which communities in Maryland have historically been surveilled, profiled, and targeted, and they are the categories that federal enforcement actors are most likely to exploit.

This bill must be understood alongside SB504, the Maryland Longitudinal Data System expansion bill also before the General Assembly this session. In testimony supporting SB504, we argued that Maryland's decision to expand the MLDS's research partnerships is the right one — and that its value depends entirely on the strength of the data privacy protections surrounding the system. SB504 is the broader legislative context that makes that argument credible. A state that prohibits the sale of consumer data for immigration enforcement, that requires warrants before public records are disclosed to federal enforcement actors, and that limits warrantless access to law enforcement communication networks is a state with a coherent, comprehensive approach to data sovereignty.

Student data, consumer data, public records, and law enforcement databases are not separate silos. They are interconnected systems that, in the absence of comprehensive protections, can be assembled into a surveillance

architecture that disproportionately harms Black students, immigrant families, and communities of color. SB504 treats data privacy not as a technical compliance requirement but as a civil rights imperative — and that framing is correct.

Opponents of this bill may argue that requiring warrants for immigration enforcement access to data systems obstructs legitimate federal law enforcement. That argument inverts the constitutional order. The Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches does not include an exception for civil immigration enforcement. The warrant requirement that SB504 applies to public records access and message switching systems is not a novel restriction — it is the constitutional baseline that should already apply. Maryland is not obstructing federal enforcement. It is insisting that federal enforcement operate within the bounds of the Constitution.

This is precisely what Maryland's Senate argued when ending 287(g) agreements: that ICE agents conducting warrantless home entries and using unaccountable enforcement tactics were violating the Fourth Amendment, and that Maryland would not facilitate that violation. SB504 extends that same constitutional logic to the data infrastructure that enables warrantless targeting in the first place.

The legislative work Maryland has undertaken this session — ending 287(g) agreements, protecting educational civil rights through HB 649, expanding the MLDS with robust privacy protections through HB 293, and now enacting the Data Privacy Act through SB504 — represents a coherent state-level response to a federal government that has chosen to weaponize its power against the communities Maryland is committed to protecting. Each of these bills fills a different gap in the same wall of protection. Remove any one of them and the wall has a hole.

Black families, Latino families, and immigrant communities in Maryland need to know that when they drive to work, apply for benefits, enroll their children in school, or carry a cell phone, they are not generating a data trail that will be assembled into a targeting profile and handed to federal enforcement agents. SB504 is Maryland's answer to that need. It is not a partisan measure. It is a constitutional one.

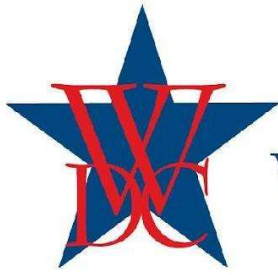
We urge this Committee and the full General Assembly to pass House Bill SB504 without delay.

peace & truth,  
sharlimar douglass  
Education Justice Advocate & Analyst  
Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE)

**SB 0504 FAV - WDC Testimony - 26 Feb 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelby Harper

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**SB 0504 Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
Finance Committee, February 26, 2026  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs, with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **SB 0504 Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**. We support the Data Privacy Act because it is critical for the protection of Marylanders' sensitive data from unwarranted federal surveillance.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has [greatly expanded its ability to collect, retain, and analyze information](#) about people living inside the United States. DHS law enforcement agencies are responsible for *civil* immigration enforcement, so the expanded collection and use of personal data is unlawful mission creep that endangers civil liberties with [deadly results](#).

The Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the United States Border Patrol (USBP) have already shown they cannot be trusted with the private data of people living in the United States. Both are using personal data information toward a dragnet-style deportation of noncitizens and to [identify and investigate U.S. citizens](#). Both have repeatedly [lied to the American people](#) when the truth doesn't suit their narrative and are [using private data to intimidate observers and activists](#).

The Data Privacy Act would affirm Maryland's commitment to civil liberties, privacy, and community trust by establishing barriers to DHS access to private data. The personal data Marylanders have shared with state and local agencies was never intended to serve a federal government that is separating families and [deporting parents who have no idea where their children are located](#). It would protect Maryland jurisdictions that have adopted policies of trust and care within communities and that have prohibited cooperation with DHS and its components. The Data Privacy Act would protect all Marylanders from unwarranted surveillance by the federal authorities, telling ICE and USBP that Maryland won't stand for DHS's expanded mission that is contrary to the ideals we hold true as Americans.

**WDC applauds the sponsors of SB 0504, the Data Privacy Act. We ask for your support for SB 0504 and strongly urge swift passage.**

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper  
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy Chair

# **Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable - Google**

Uploaded by: sonia shah

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**

### **SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Sonia Shah, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

**The careless brutality of the current administration's immigration enforcement efforts are terrorizing communities and must be checked by all legal means. SB504 is an important measure that will protect communities and prevent the misuse of our private data.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Sonia Shah  
328 Weatherbee Road  
Towson MD 21286**

## **2.24.26 SB504 OPD Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stephanie Wolf

Position: FAV



**NATASHA DARTIGUE**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**KEITH LOTRIDGE**  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

**HANNIBAL KEMERER**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**ELIZABETH HILLIARD**  
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**BILL: SB504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**DATE: February 24, 2026**

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The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests a favorable report on SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

This legislation provides essential safeguards to ensure that personal data collected by Maryland agencies and private entities is not used to facilitate civil immigration enforcement without appropriate judicial oversight. In an era when vast quantities of personal data are routinely collected, stored, and shared without oversight, this bill establishes reasonable and necessary protections for the privacy of Maryland residents.

Personal data today includes deeply revealing information, such as precise location data, biometric identifiers, and sensitive personal characteristics. Without clear statutory limits, this information can be accessed and used by federal immigration authorities in ways that Maryland agencies and Marylanders neither expect nor understand. SB504 appropriately ensures that Maryland agencies and entities do not disclose personal information for immigration enforcement purposes unless presented with a valid judicial warrant. This requirement reinforces the fundamental principle that access to sensitive personal data should be subject to neutral judicial review rather than informal or administrative requests.

The bill also establishes important protections governing public records and law enforcement communication systems, helping ensure that Maryland's own data infrastructure is not used in ways that undermine the privacy and security of its residents and sow distrust of the state government. These provisions promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in government institutions.

Maryland residents should be able to interact with their government, including obtaining driver's licenses, accessing public services, and maintaining public records, without fear that their personal information will be repurposed for the enforcement of civil immigration law.

Fears around data sharing chill engagement with important systems, not only among people who are at risk of immigration arrest, but also among noncitizens with lawful status who fear that they may eventually join the 1.5 million people who were de-documented in 2025, and U.S. Citizens living in mixed status households, who fear that DHS could use their data to target their parents, spouses, or siblings. Our CINA attorneys have seen kinship placements fall through when relatives are willing to care for the children but afraid to submit their information (or that of all household members) to the government. Our intake staff sees clients who need OPD's services but are afraid to submit their information to the commissioner in order to get qualified for a public defender. We all see clients who badly want help to address issues like homelessness, mental health struggles, or addiction, but who fear that engaging with available services could endanger them or their families by putting their data into ICE's hands.

We have also seen the opposite—noncitizens who *do* place their trust our institutions, who have information that they have provided in good faith handed over to immigration authorities and used to target them. Like a Maryland man arrested by immigration authorities in Maryland in June. He was not the target of the ICE operation, but he was included in a packet that ICE had compiled of other people who were simply living in the same neighborhood as the target, and who ICE thought might be subject to immigration arrest. The only affirmative information that the government cited as probable cause for this man's arrest was a database check reflecting "a Maryland state identification card classified as "NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION.""<sup>1</sup> This information was likely available to ICE instantaneously and without a warrant, because the Maryland Driver Privacy Act, which was intended to limit such access, did not address the role of message switching systems in the complex relationship of state and federal law enforcement databases and fusion centers. By addressing this critical oversight, SB504 would effectuate the intent of the Driver Privacy Act, and make it more difficult for ICE to use our MVA data to target Marylanders in this way.

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<sup>1</sup> The details leading up to this individual's arrest are available only because he was initially charged with assaulting, resisting, or impeding federal officers in case number 1:25-mj-02052-DRM. However, the government elected to pursue deportation without prosecuting the criminal case.

Importantly, this legislation does not prevent cooperation with legitimate criminal investigations or interfere with lawful law enforcement activity. Instead, it ensures that access to personal data follows established legal processes and judicial oversight. Clear rules benefit both Maryland agencies and Marylanders by promoting consistency and ensuring that sensitive information is handled appropriately.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB504.**

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.**

**Authored by: Marc Canellas, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Forensics Division.**

**SB504 SSJC fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Susaanti Follingstad

Position: FAV



## Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable

### SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)

Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

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

Silver Spring Justice Coalition offers favorable testimony in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

The Silver Spring Justice Coalition is an organization of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County that works to reduce the presence of police in our communities; eliminate violence and harm by police; establish transparency and accountability; and redirect public funds toward community needs.

At its core, SB504 is about upholding Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Right now, dangerous loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling.

Our immigrant community is under siege by federal government actions. Places in Montgomery County that used to bustle are empty and quiet because immigrants (and some who might be perceived as immigrants) are afraid to venture out for fear of a chance encounter with federal officials or local law enforcement. Immigrants are having food delivered by local mutual aid groups, getting others to take their children to school (or keeping them home), setting up Standby Guardianship for their children in case the parents are detained or deported, and even afraid to answer their phones or open their door to anyone they do not know.

This bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law

enforcement exemption that ICE exploits, and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are essential to restoring trust between communities and state government.

ICE actions have already created an environment of fear and uncertainty which discourages individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

Mass surveillance and unchecked data sharing threaten the privacy and safety of all Marylanders—not just immigrant communities. When state agencies become pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, community trust erodes and public safety suffers. Maryland must ensure that state-collected data is never used to harm the families and residents it is meant to protect. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, the Silver Spring Justice Coalition urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Sincerely,  
Susaanti Follingstad  
Silver Spring Justice Coalition Steering Committee  
Rockville MD 20851

# **Takoma Park 2026 - SB 504 FAV - Data Privacy Act -**

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



# CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Senate Bill 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)  
Senate Finance Committee, February 26, 2026  
Support**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill. Senate Bill 504 aims to protect Marylanders by closing driver data loopholes, stopping backdoor ICE data requests, and protecting location and digital data.

The City of Takoma Park is a municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County, along the Washington, D.C. border. We are a highly diverse community and approximately a third of our residents were born outside of the U.S. Our city has worked diligently to build trust between our local police department and our immigrant community so that residents feel comfortable reporting crime and calling on our local police for help.

Without additional data privacy protections, unchecked data sharing can continue to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling. No one should fear that everyday interactions with the state could lead to an interaction with ICE. When data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk and mistrust of state agencies – and by extension, local agencies – worsens.

We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 504.

City Contact: Talisha Searcy, Mayor  
[talishas@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:talishas@takomaparkmd.gov)

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tamara Todd

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the **Finance Committee**,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 10. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services they are entitled to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE. These searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- the Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamara Todd

221 Northway Rd, Reisterstown MD 21136

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**



# **Testimony on Senate Bill 0504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Theresa Hunter

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 0504 – Favorable  
SB0504 – Data Privacy Act**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

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

My name is Theresa Hunter and I am a resident of Hollywood, MD. I am writing in support of SB0504, the Data Privacy Act. We must push back against the Trump Administration's often violent and illegal manner of enforcing this country's immigration laws. Passage of this bill will help.

I support HB711 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB0504**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa Hunter  
Hollywood, MD 20636

# **SB504 - Data Privacy Act\_TH.pdf**

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

This testimony is submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group working to move folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice, in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

This bill is critical in closing dangerous loopholes and limiting ICE's ability to access our state and local agency databases. It would prevent all Maryland state and local government agencies from releasing personal/private data to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant. Maryland's past experience with ICE's use of MVA data illustrates the threat: as one example, a CASA member who was applying for asylum was deported after ICE admitted they received his information directly from the MVA database, violating the trust the state had established with undocumented immigrants encouraged to get a driver's license. While the 2021 Driver Privacy Act limited access to MVA data, federal authorities have escalated their tactics, attempting to dig into Medicaid and utility data, among others. This new legislation is necessary to fully shut down this pipeline.

The federal government's free use of state and local databases to track down immigrants creates a climate of fear in which immigrants and people of color are afraid or unable to seek services to which they are entitled if they need to cooperate with any kind of authority, because they know that any information they provide will inevitably be weaponized by ICE. This impacts everyone's lives for the worse. I know a young working woman—a Guatemalan immigrant—who is also the mother of a four-year-old girl. This mother wants to enroll her daughter in public school next year but is afraid doing so might jeopardize her whole family's safety. Imagine the long-term impact on the life of that little girl, and generations to come, if her education is delayed or incomplete due to the climate of fear created under this presidential administration.

These data searches occur without warrants, oversight, or auditing, leaving the door wide open for misuse. In addition, data access has been used with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), which is less accurate for people of color and significantly likely to result in the misidentification of individuals.

This bill specifically closes critical loopholes left by the previous legislation by addressing:

- Third party brokers, who can circumvent restrictions by selling our databases to ICE so they do not have to approach the agencies holding the data
- The Nlets program, an interagency data sharing database that could allow agencies at every level of government to access local data.
- Geolocation data tracking and license plate readers, as well as reports of ICE accessing utility data to track an individual's location and patterns.

By passing this bill, Maryland joins other states that have taken strong action: California Values Act (2017) and New York Green Light Law (2019) successfully cut off ICE access to state databases without a warrant. Furthermore, this legislation is legally sound, since federal law only restricts states from barring their own entities from sharing information about citizenship or immigration status, which the databases the bill seeks to protect do not contain. It is for these reasons that **I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB504, the Data Privacy Act.** Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Hoffman

803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **SB504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Recor**

Uploaded by: Tonaeya Moore

Position: FAV



**SB 504 - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

**SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 504. This bill strengthens Maryland's data privacy laws by expanding protections for personal and sensitive data, limiting the use of data for immigration enforcement purposes, and increasing safeguards around public records and law enforcement databases.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

CASH strongly supported the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024 (HB 567) because it increased consumer data rights protections and strengthened Maryland's role as a national leader in privacy policy. That legislation recognized that data privacy is about financial security, consumer protection, and preventing harm from misuse of sensitive information. This bill builds on that foundation by closing critical loopholes that continue to put Marylanders at risk.

Loopholes still allow sensitive information collected by state agencies to be accessed through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. SB 504 ensures that state agencies are not pipelines for immigration enforcement and strengthens protections around driver data, public records requests, geolocation data, and message switching systems.

Many of our clients are ITIN holders which are individuals who file and pay taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. These Marylanders contribute to our economy, pay state and local taxes, and seek driver's licenses or interact with state agencies to comply with the law and support their families. We see what happens to clients when they fear that their personal information like driver data, tax records, or other state-collected data, could be shared or accessed for immigration enforcement purposes. These consequences include:

- Families avoiding applying for driver's licenses, even when legally eligible,
- Workers hesitating to file taxes, claim credits, or access financial services, and
- Parents avoiding interacting with state agencies out of fear that routine information sharing could place their household at risk.

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*



This fear undermines financial stability, economic mobility, and our ability to serve the community. We work to connect families to tax credits like the EITC and CTC, to safe and affordable banking options, and other services across the state. These efforts depend on trust. When data privacy protections are weak and unclear, it erodes the trust that our clients have for the system. This bill restores and strengthens that trust.

Maryland has already demonstrated leadership in consumer protection. SB 504 continues that work by ensuring that privacy protections are meaningful in practice. State agencies should serve as a shield that protects Marylanders' information and not act as a conduit through which it can be misused.

***Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 504.***

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*

**FAVORABLE SB504\_Valerie Hodge-Williams.pdf**

Uploaded by: Val Hodge-Williams

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable**  
**SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System**  
**(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Beldle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Hodge-Williams, and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I was an immigrant brought over from the UK for my skills as a physical therapist. It was of benefit to me and Maryland that I could be licensed as a professional. I never faced the fear that my personal information from the Maryland Licensing Board could be shared for any other purpose than confirmation of my qualifications.

It is essential that immigrants can obtain skills and licenses, both to improve their lives and to support our community as qualified professionals. It benefits the state to have more qualified, registered trade persons and professionals paying annual fees and taxes. We need to protect Maryland's registration & licensing trade data from misuse so all our skilled trade workers can be compliant and safe as officially licensed Maryland professionals. Fear of data sharing should not undermine participating in our important state licensing systems.

For this and other reasons I support these commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE. I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **SB504 Testimony -Deutschmann.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vanessa Deutschmann

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill 504 – Favorable  
SB504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System  
(Data Privacy Act)**

**Finance Committee**

**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Vanessa Deutschmann, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB504 – the Data Privacy Act**.

I am personally connected with individuals living in Maryland with *full legal status* to be in the United States who feel so insecure due to the recent aggressive and extrajudicial tactics of ICE that they live in fear of living their lives freely, such as going to the grocery store. I want to tell them they are overreacting – but I cannot in good conscience say that. We must take all actions possible to restore this badly broken trust.

I support SB504 because current loopholes in Maryland's privacy laws allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through third-party data brokers, law enforcement data-sharing networks, and automated license plate readers. This turns state agencies into pipelines for federal immigration enforcement, undermining community trust and endangering families.

This bill closes those loopholes by preventing third parties from sharing driver data with ICE, stopping records requests from being used to target immigrants, and protecting geolocation and digital data from federal exploitation. These are commonsense reforms that ensure Maryland's privacy laws live up to their intended purpose. When personal data is misused, everyone's privacy is at risk—not just immigrants'. State agencies should be a shield, not a conduit, for ICE.

A community that cannot trust its law enforcement officials to act in support of our constitutional rights and those of our neighbors is in grave danger. This does not have to be a threat to us in Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB504**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Deutschmann  
Columbia, MD

**SB0504\_fav\_mascioli.pdf**

Uploaded by: William Mascioli

Position: FAV

**SB0504 - SUPPORT**

William Mascioli  
2021 Luzerne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

301.404.7490

## **SB0504 – Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)**

Senate Finance Committee

February 26, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the 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 and values posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to strongly support SB 0504, which would add essential modifications to existing laws governing the protection of personal records, such as the Maryland Online Privacy Act of 2024, Maryland Code, Commercial Law Article §§ 14-4701 through 14-4713, by, among other things, prohibiting their sale to a purchaser for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

Our data have become potential threats and instruments of control that must be safeguarded. Thankfully, this body has taken care to protect the sensitive information of everyone in our state through the 2021 Driver Privacy Act and the Online Data Privacy Act cited above.

Unfortunately, there is a lawless agency of the federal government bent on undermining all of these protections. As members of this body are well aware, ICE behaves as a law unto itself: Unidentified masked agents terrorize our communities with no regard for basic protections such as due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. In furtherance of this travesty, ICE 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 cruel and seemingly insatiable appetite for deportations.

These companies are now making huge profits by selling access to their massive databases of personal information. SB0504 would limit the circumstances in which such third-party information brokers or message-switching systems like Nlets could sell consumer or state data to the most lawless "security" force in American history.

ICE's "rapists and murderers" and "worst of the worst" incantations fool no one. ICE chooses its targets using classic racial and employment profiling. They are even targeting law-abiding immigrants attending their court hearings. This is not a strategy to protect public safety; this is ethnic cleansing.

Nor is it only immigrants (and people who look like they might be immigrants) who are being targeted. ICE is actively collecting data on U.S. citizens like my neighbors and me at North Woodside Civil Resistance who are objecting to the misconduct of this rogue federal agency.

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 SB0504 would be an important step in the right direction. Accordingly, I urge a favorable report on SB0504 and thank you for your consideration.

**SB0504\_TogetherWeWillHarfordCountyIndivisible\_FAV.**

Uploaded by: Ydelka Schrock

Position: FAV

February 26, 2026

Ydelka A. Schrock  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, 21005

**TESTIMONY ON SB0504 – IN SUPPORT**

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

**TO:** Chair Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Senator Antonio Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Ydelka A. Schrock

My name is Ydelka A. Schrock. I am a resident of Harford County District 34A. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0504, Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act), on behalf of Together We Will Harford County Indivisible (TWW). TWW is an inclusive and diverse group of 500 regular members, with over 1,000 followers on social media, working together to create a just community that empowers individuals to participate in our democracy and stand up for social, racial, and economic justice to create a place where all can thrive.

Companies have been allowed to collect a vast amount of personal data from their users and while yes, this has helped fuel innovations, it has also led to concerns about surveillance, unauthorized access, and data breaches. Every online interaction creates a digital footprint that can be exploited even in State run websites. Now the Federal Government is allowing ICE to use government databases and private data brokers to obtain personal identifiable information (PII) to track, detain, and deport Maryland residents.

While Maryland has taken steps to protect its resident's data, by limiting data sharing, there are still loopholes that leave families vulnerable to misuse. Expanding data privacy protections will end these loopholes and allow residents to feel safer when enrolling their children for school, seeking access to health care, and applying for public benefits.

In an era where data accumulation is skyrocketing, protecting data privacy has become increasingly important to defend, not just sensitive information from loss, damage, or corruption, but also for the civil liberties and dignity of all Marylanders.

On behalf of TWW, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0504.



**SB 0504 FAVORABLE with Amendment 02-26-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marcia Greenberg

Position: FWA

**Testimony on SB504 – Favorable with Amendment**  
**Data Privacy Act**  
**Finance Committee**  
**February 26, 2026**

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

My name is Marcia Greenberg, and I submit this testimony in FAVOR of SB 0504, focused on Data Privacy.

I commend the sponsor and supporters of this bill for ensuring that the state of Maryland takes all necessary action to prevent ICE/CBP agents from gaining information from any state or county entity that might share data enabling the tracking, apprehending, detention and eviction of Marylanders. Banning 287(g) was a first step, but this is an additional step that is essential. Without it, ICE/CBP will be using our state, through employees with other essential work/tasks to undertake and for purposes of rounding up residents without proper judicial warrants and authority. They are not focusing their attention on the “worst of the worst”, nor even on people with accusations or suspicions of serious crimes. Instead, they would target people who work in this state, support their families, pay taxes, and seek to contribute to our communities and to our country. We should not enable this terror, a racist campaign against people who are brown and black, and a system that ignores constitutional protections like due process.

But beyond that, while this bill focuses on protecting our immigrant families, and should do so, it is also a critical bill for protecting us ALL: Many of us have been concerned for months now that ICE was being trained and set up to serve as a sort of secret police. We have been concerned that they would use technology and sensitive, personal data to track innocent individuals – particularly relating to immigration status. But we have also known that whatever systems they develop and perfect, would then be easily applied to us all. It has become increasingly apparent that billions of taxpayer dollars are being spent to set up a repressive system. They ignore first, fourth and fifth amendment rights. They now seek to identify not only non-citizen individuals, but also people who are working to protect innocent neighbors and to uphold our constitutional rights.

In the early 1990s, I worked in countries in Eastern Europe where the government had spied on people, undermined trust among friends and members of families, and repressed public dissent. Developing a culture of democratic engagement was impeded by experiences with STASI and secret police. Gradually, the secret files that were kept on dissenters were discovered and exposed.

We, in the United States of America, are heading in that direction. Our federal government is becoming more of a threat to us all – and to our democracy – all the time. The ONLY hope for our future is if the States set standards and protect our privacy.

I implore you, therefore, to take this Data Privacy Act seriously. It is critical for the many innocent immigrants in the state of Maryland who are not “the worst of the worst” and who have NO criminal records. It is critical for protecting individuals and families who came to our country for liberties that did not exist in their home countries – but that are now seriously threatened in the United States. But it is also critical for every one of us. Once data is accessed, it is “out of the bag” – it is out and available for use by the wrong elements and for repressive purposes. We have already seen threats to all of us as social security and internal revenue service data is hacked or unlawfully exposed. Please do not allow the same to happen for Maryland data.

We, residents of Maryland, depend on you to take an honest look at how companies with data and who seek to gain access to public data, are threatening us all. In many ways, it may be too late. But in any ways that you can use the laws of Maryland to protect sensitive, personal data that is held by the State of Maryland about us, please do! Please protect ALL data.

I ask for a favorable report, but with one amendment: This so VERY serious that I urge you to amend this legislation to be an Emergency Act -- to ensure that its provisions are implemented and go into effect with every possible sense of urgency.

Thank you – and please report out this bill, SB 504, favorably with that one amendment.

Thank you,

Marcia Greenberg  
St Mary’s County

**CDIA SB504 FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Zachary Taylor

Position: FWA



Consumer Data Industry Association  
1090 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20005-4905

February 24, 2026

P 202 371 0910

[CDIAONLINE.ORG](http://CDIAONLINE.ORG)

Senator Pamela Beidle  
Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Maryland Senate  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

On behalf of the Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA), I am writing to highlight technical concerns with provisions from SB 504 that would amend Maryland's existing comprehensive data privacy statute. The proposed changes to several key provisions would make Maryland's statute incongruent with those of other states and open the door to significant uncertainty regarding the use of public records by our membership for purposes outside the intended scope of this bill. While we appreciate the consumer reporting industry is not the target of SB 504, we respectfully request the committee revise the bill to more clearly effectuate its intent, avoiding unnecessary conflict with federal laws or constitutional conflicts.

CDIA represents the consumer reporting industry, including nationwide credit bureaus, regional and specialized credit bureaus, background check companies, and more. Since our founding in 1906, we have promoted the responsible use of consumer data to empower financial opportunities, reduce fraud, and manage risk. Through data analytics, our members facilitate fair and secure transactions, foster competition, and expand consumers' access to tailored financial products. As part of our mission, CDIA promotes responsible data practices to benefit consumers and to help businesses, governments and volunteer organizations avoid fraud and manage risk.

Three sections of SB 504 are of most concern to our members. These sections include the proposed change to the definition of publicly available information at 14-4701 (a)(cc)(1)(i), the proposed change to the exemption for the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act 14-4703 (8), and the proposed changes related to controllers' ability to sell personal data in 14-407 (a)(5)(II). CDIA understands these amendments to the data privacy statute are intended to effectuate restriction on certain uses of information contained in public records established by other parts of SB 504, but we are concerned that the use of broad, undefined terms create uncertainty for our members who rely on public records and may introduce conflicts with federal laws, like the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Driver's Privacy Protection Act.

The change to the definition of "publicly available information" introduces substantial uncertainty and subjectivity into the scope of the data privacy statute. As the definition of "publicly available information" is critical in determining when personal data is subject to the protections of the bill, conditioning applicability based on subjective interpretations of downstream uses may make it impossible for businesses and consumers to understand when and where the law applies. Similarly, given it relies on broad terms, CDIA is concerned it would allow records custodians to place restrictions on the use of records unrelated to the intent of SB 504, disrupting data flows and creating conflicts with other state and federal laws.

We have similar concerns about the proposed changes to the exemption for the Driver's Privacy Protection Act. Current language reflects the construction of the DPPA, which requires certain motor vehicle and driver information to be available by state entities for covered purposes including vehicle safety roles. While CDIA members who perform this important public safety work adhere to the requirements of the DPPA, they are not performing that work to comply with the DPPA. This creates confusion and ambiguity, making it difficult to understand how and when that information would be subject to the data privacy statute.

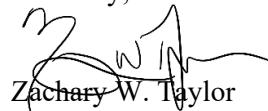
Finally, CDIA and its members also have concerns about the new restriction imposed on controllers related to the sale of data. Not only does this section place controllers in the impossible position of guessing at how

personal data may be used at any point in the future, that test is made even more challenging based on the existing “should have known” standard in current law.

Setting aside the underlying intent of the bill, CDIA is concerned that these changes would move Maryland’s data privacy statute out of line with the 20 other state data privacy laws. While CDIA believes that a single, federal data privacy statute represents a better approach, given that the consumer reporting industry operates in all jurisdictions and across state lines, it is critical that state level data privacy laws are as closely aligned as possible.

In the interest of avoiding patchwork of competing state level approaches, we respectfully encourage the committee to consider revising SB 504 in a manner that would achieve its underlying intent without opening up Maryland’s comprehensive data privacy law. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary W. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "Z" and "W".

Zachary W. Taylor  
Director, Government Relations  
Consumer Data Industry Association

# **SPSC - MD SB 504 (Omnibus Privacy Amendment) - Tes**

Uploaded by: Andrew Kingman

Position: UNF

# STATE PRIVACY & SECURITY COALITION

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
The Honorable Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB504 - Data Privacy**

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

The State Privacy & Security Coalition (SPSC), representing over 30 companies and seven trade associations across the retail, telecommunications, technology, automotive, healthcare, and payment card sectors, appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 504.

SPSC understands the Legislature's concern regarding the use of personal data in ways that may expose individuals, including immigrant communities, to unintended consequences. We share the view that certain categories of personal data warrant heightened protections, particularly where misuse could undermine consumer privacy or result in uses that extend beyond consumers' reasonable expectations. Maryland has already enacted the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act, which includes restrictions on the sale of all sensitive data, including data such as precise geolocation information and data revealing citizenship or immigration status. We respectfully approach SB 504 with recommendations intended to help ensure the legislation achieves its objectives in a clear, targeted, and workable manner.

**I. THE LEGAL PROCESS EXCLUSION AMENDMENT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A KNOWLEDGE STANDARD**

Section 14-4712(a)(2) of the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act establishes a legal process exclusion that permits controllers and processors to disclose personal data when necessary to comply with civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiries, investigations, subpoenas, or summonses issued by governmental authorities. Legal process exclusions serve an important function in modern privacy law by ensuring that companies can comply with valid legal obligations while maintaining appropriate safeguards for personal data. SB 504 amends that exclusion to prohibit compliance with legal process that pertains solely to immigration enforcement.

We understand the importance of the issue the Legislature seeks to address through this provision and are working with our members to identify a constructive path forward. At the same time, the proposed language puts businesses in the legally precarious position of navigating conflicting federal and state laws. At a minimum, we are concerned that the amendment does not account for whether the responding entity has knowledge of the request's underlying purpose, which unnecessarily exacerbates the risks associated with the provision.

# STATE PRIVACY & SECURITY COALITION

Companies routinely receive legal process from federal, state, and local authorities that identifies the information sought but does not disclose investigative purpose or enforcement classification. Organizations are expected to assess the validity of legal process based on legal sufficiency rather than independently determining the government's intent. As a result, controllers and processors may not have visibility into whether a request relates solely to immigration enforcement or to other lawful investigative activities.

Absent a knowledge qualifier, entities acting in good faith to comply with facially valid legal process may face uncertainty regarding how to interpret and apply the provision. Legal exposure could arise even where the responding entity had no way of knowing the request pertained solely to immigration enforcement. Providing clarity regarding when the restriction applies would help ensure consistent application.

To address that concern, SPSC respectfully recommends revising the provision as follows:

## **Section 14-4712.**

**(a) Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to restrict a controller's or processor's ability to:**

**(2) Comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, State, local, or other governmental authority, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT A CONTROLLER OR PROCESSOR KNOWS AN INQUIRY, AN INVESTIGATION, A SUBPOENA, OR A SUMMONS PERTAINS SOLELY TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT."**

Incorporating a knowledge standard would not alter the core prohibition or narrow the Legislature's intention to prevent the disclosure of personal data in response to requests made solely for immigration enforcement purposes. Rather, such clarification would ensure the restriction applies in circumstances where a controller or processor has clear awareness of the request's purpose. Controllers and processors would remain prohibited under Maryland law from knowingly responding to requests made solely for immigration enforcement, preserving the Legislature's intent.

Finally, implementation of the provision will require controllers and processors to update procedures for reviewing and responding to legal process. Because legal process often does not specify investigative purpose, organizations will need time to integrate the new standard into existing review workflows and ensure requests are handled consistently. Providing additional time will support effective and orderly implementation of the amended law. SPSC therefore recommends extending the effective date by six months, from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

## II. THE BILL'S RESTRUCTURING OF THE "SENSITIVE DATA" DEFINITION WARRANTS ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

SB 504 alters the statutory definition of "sensitive data" by redesignating the existing definition as "sensitive attribute" and introducing a new definition at subsection (hh). Under SB 504, "sensitive data" would include personal data that contains a sensitive attribute, as well as personal data processed "for the purpose of identifying a sensitive attribute." That revision expands the statutory scope beyond personal data that directly reveals a sensitive characteristic to also include personal data based on how it may be processed.

By defining sensitive data based on processing purpose, subsection (hh) shifts the statutory trigger from the nature of the data to the characterization of processing activities. Because heightened statutory obligations attach to sensitive data under Maryland law, SB 504's proposed language makes it less clear when those obligations apply. As a result, identical personal data could be subject to different statutory treatment depending on how processing activities are characterized, rather than based on whether the data reveals or indicates a sensitive characteristic.

Maryland's existing privacy law relies on objective criteria to determine when heightened protections apply. Other comprehensive privacy laws similarly address inferred sensitive characteristics while preserving objective statutory triggers tied to whether data reveals or indicates a sensitive characteristic. The Colorado Privacy Act Regulations, for example, provide that sensitive data includes "inferences made by a controller based on personal data, alone or in combination with other data, which are used to indicate an individual's racial or ethnic origin; religious beliefs; mental or physical health condition or diagnosis; sex life or sexual orientation; or citizenship or citizenship status."<sup>1</sup> Incorporating inference language in that manner ensures protections apply when sensitive characteristics are actually identified or indicated, without altering the underlying statutory trigger.

Accordingly, SPSC respectfully recommends removing subsection (hh) and incorporating Colorado's targeted inference language directly into subsection (gg). Specifically, subsection (gg) should include an additional provision stating as follows:

**(gg)(5) "Sensitive data" includes inferences made by a controller based on personal data, alone or in combination with other data, which are used to indicate any of the sensitive data categories identified in subsections (gg)(1) through (gg)(4).**

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<sup>1</sup> See Colo. Att'y Gen., Colorado Privacy Act Rules, 4 Colo. Code Regs. § 904-3, Rule 2.02 (effective Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/DisplayRule.do?action=ruleinfo&ruleId=3396&deptID=11&agencyID=11&deptName=Department%20of%20Law&agencyName=Attorney%20General-Consumer%20Protection%20Section&seriesNum=4%20CCR%20904-3>.

# STATE PRIVACY & SECURITY COALITION

The inclusion of outcome-based inference language within subsection (gg) would ensure that derived sensitive characteristics receive the same protections as directly collected sensitive data. Sensitive characteristics, whether directly collected or inferred, would remain fully protected under Maryland law. Preserving Maryland's existing definition while incorporating targeted inference language would also maintain clear statutory triggers and support consistent and predictable compliance and enforcement.

### III. THE DEFINITION OF "PRECISE GEOLOCATION DATA" SHOULD NOT BE MODIFIED

Across the 20 states that have passed comprehensive privacy legislation, the definition of "precise geolocation data" is one that is virtually identical across all statutes. The key to this definition is that it is tied *to the consumer*, so that the consumer's personal data receives heightened protections. Extending this to mobile devices and vehicles, neither of which are necessarily tied to a consumer, could significantly expand the scope of how businesses must understand the requirements of this law.

The definition of "personal data" is critical here because it is data that is "linked or can reasonably be linked to an identified or identifiable consumer." That is the core definition upon which the entire law is based. Implicit in this definition is that it covers *all* personal data – whether that is data attached to a mobile device, an automobile, a smart device, etc. Moving beyond this definition for one data element, for particular devices like mobile devices or vehicles, creates unnecessary confusion if the goal is to ensure those data types are already covered by this statute.

### IV. THE BILL'S REVISED DEFINITION OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION RAISES IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

SB 504 revises the definition of publicly available information by providing that information obtained from government records qualifies as publicly available only when processed in accordance with any restriction or term of use imposed by the governmental entity. The amendment appears to reflect the Legislature's effort to address how personal information contained in government records may be used after disclosure, particularly where public records include sensitive personal details.

Importantly, the First Amendment protects the right to collect, use, and disseminate truthful information lawfully obtained from public records. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that the government may not restrict the publication of lawfully obtained truthful information absent a state interest of the highest order. *See, e.g., Florida Star v. B.J.F.*, 491 U.S. 524, 532-33 (1989) (holding that the First Amendment protects publication of truthful information obtained from publicly released government records); *Smith v. Daily Mail Publ'g Co.*, 443 U.S. 97, 102 (1979) (reasoning that governmental attempts to restrict the publication of truthful information "seldom can satisfy constitutional standards."). Restrictions on the use or dissemination of lawfully obtained information also implicate core constitutional protections because the creation and dissemination of information constitute protected speech. *See Sorrell v. IMS Health*

# STATE PRIVACY & SECURITY COALITION

*Inc.*, 564 U.S. 552, 570–71 (2011) (holding that restrictions on the use, disclosure, and dissemination of lawfully obtained information constitute content- and speaker-based regulations subject to heightened First Amendment scrutiny).

Lower courts applying those principles have likewise recognized that statutory restrictions affecting publicly available information must be carefully drawn to satisfy constitutional requirements. A federal district court, for example, recently held that restricting the dissemination of publicly available personal information constituted a content-based regulation of speech that could not survive constitutional scrutiny where the law burdened the use of truthful information obtained from public records. *See Jackson v. Whitepages, Inc.*, No. 1:24-cv-00080, at \*24-33 (N.D.W. Va. Aug. 18, 2025) (holding that statutory restrictions on the dissemination of publicly available personal information violated the First Amendment because they were not narrowly tailored).

Publicly available government records play an important role in supporting transparency and the lawful exchange of information. Conditioning publicly available status on downstream processing restrictions may make it difficult to determine when information retains its public character, even where the information was lawfully obtained from government sources. Clarifying that lawfully obtained government records remain publicly available would ensure consistency with established constitutional principles while preserving Maryland’s privacy framework and providing clear and workable statutory standards.

\* \* \*

SPSC appreciates the Committee’s consideration of SB 504 and its focus on ensuring strong and appropriate protections for Maryland residents’ personal data. The issues addressed in the bill, including government requests for personal data, inferred sensitive characteristics, and the treatment of publicly available government records, raise important questions regarding how privacy protections are implemented in practice.

The recommendations outlined above are intended to ensure the statute can be applied as intended and, in a manner, consistent with Maryland’s broader privacy framework. These revisions do not alter the bill’s core protections. Instead, they provide clarity regarding how those protections apply, supporting consistent implementation while preserving the Legislature’s policy objectives.

SPSC respectfully looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee, the bill’s sponsor, and other stakeholders to ensure SB 504 achieves its intended objectives while providing clear and workable standards for implementation. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and remain available to assist in further refinement of the legislation.

# STATE PRIVACY & SECURITY COALITION

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew A. Kingman  
Counsel, State Privacy & Security Coalition



William C. Martinez  
Counsel, State Privacy & Security Coalition

**MDCC\_SB 504\_Unfavorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins

Position: UNF



## Senate Bill 504

**Position: Unfavorable**

Committee: Finance

Date: February 26, 2026

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The Maryland Chamber appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 504 (SB 504), but we are concerned the bill's language creates unintended negative consequences. Our first concern is that the controller or processor responding to valid legal process may not be in a position to determine the underlying subject matter of the request.

In many cases, the recipient of a subpoena or summons does not have visibility into whether the request is connected exclusively to immigration enforcement. To address this concern, the Maryland Chamber recommends clarifying the language so that the exception applies only where the controller or processor has actual knowledge of the request's sole immigration-related purpose. We respectfully suggest revising the provision as follows:

### **Section 14-4712.**

**(a) Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to restrict a controller's or processor's ability to:**

**(2) Comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, State, local, or other governmental authority, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT A CONTROLLER OR PROCESSOR KNOWS AN INQUIRY, AN INVESTIGATION, A SUBPOENA, OR A SUMMONS PERTAINS SOLELY TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.**

Second, SB 504 modifies the statutory treatment of "sensitive data" and redesignates the current definition as a "sensitive attribute." Under the proposed language, sensitive data would include not only personal data that contains a sensitive attribute, but also personal data processed "for the purpose of identifying a sensitive attribute." This approach expands the scope of the statute beyond data that directly reveals a sensitive characteristic to include data based on how it is processed.

By tying the definition to the processing purpose, subsection (hh) shifts the statutory trigger from the objective nature of the data to the way processing activities are characterized. Because Maryland law imposes heightened compliance obligations when data qualifies as sensitive, this change creates uncertainty about when those obligations are triggered. As drafted, the same data

set could be treated differently depending on how a processing activity is described, rather than on whether the data actually reveals or indicates a sensitive trait. Accordingly, we recommend removing subsection (hh) and instead incorporating tailored inference language into subsection (gg). Specifically, subsection (gg) could be amended to add:

**(gg)(5) “Sensitive data” includes inferences made by a controller based on personal data, alone or in combination with other data, which are used to indicate any of the sensitive data categories identified in subsections (gg)(1) through (gg)(4).**

Third, the bill’s revision to the definition of “publicly available information” raises both constitutional and operational issues. Specifically, SB 504 would provide that information obtained from government records qualifies as publicly available only if it is processed in accordance with any restriction or term of use imposed by the governmental entity. This amendment appears intended to address concerns about how personal information contained in public records may be used after disclosure, particularly when those records include sensitive details.

Government records serve an essential role in ensuring transparency and facilitating the lawful exchange of information. Conditioning the public status of such records on downstream processing restrictions may create uncertainty about whether information retains its public character, even when lawfully obtained. Clarifying that government records lawfully accessed remain publicly available would align the statute with established constitutional principles while preserving clarity and workability within Maryland’s privacy framework.

Finally, if HB SB 504 moves forward, we respectfully request an effective date at least one year after enactment. Additional time will be necessary for companies to interpret the revised requirements, resolve implementation questions, and update compliance programs accordingly.



**PDF\_[MD] SB 504\_Privacy\_TechNet.pdf**

Uploaded by: margaret durkin

Position: UNF

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle  
Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Maryland Senate  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: SB 504 (Lam) - Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)*

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share comments on SB 504.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes 103 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Our member companies consistently place a high priority on consumer privacy, and the technology industry is committed to privacy and security. As part of that commitment, transparency and the responsible use of data are pillars of the tech sector. TechNet understands the sponsor's concern regarding the misuse of personal data in ways that may expose individuals, including immigrant communities, to harm. We share that concern and agree that certain categories of personal data merit heightened protections. Our members have long supported targeted safeguards to address such concerns. We approach SB 504 in that same spirit and generally align with its intent.

Our first concern with SB 504 is how it amends Section 14-4712(a)(2) of the state's underlying comprehensive privacy law. Section 14-4712(a)(2) creates an exemption from the privacy law for when a controller or processor is complying with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, state, local, or other governmental authority. SB 504, however, would create an exception to that exemption when the inquiry in question pertains solely to immigration enforcement. Our concern is that a controller or a processor

receiving lawful process from the government will not always know what the subject matter is behind the request for information. To address that concern, TechNet respectfully recommends revising the provision as follows:

- **Section 14–4712.**
  - **(a) Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to restrict a controller’s or processor’s ability to:**
    - **(2) Comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by a federal, State, local, or other governmental authority, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT A CONTROLLER OR PROCESSOR KNOWS AN INQUIRY, AN INVESTIGATION, A SUBPOENA, OR A SUMMONS PERTAINS SOLELY TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.**

Second, SB 504 alters the statutory definition of “Sensitive Data” by redesignating the existing definition as “Sensitive Attribute” and introducing a new definition at subsection (hh). Under SB 504, “sensitive data” would include personal data that contains a sensitive attribute, as well as personal data processed “for the purpose of identifying a sensitive attribute”. That revision expands the statutory scope beyond personal data that directly reveals a sensitive characteristic to also include personal data based on how it may be processed.

By defining sensitive data based on processing purpose, subsection (hh) shifts the statutory trigger from the nature of the data to the characterization of processing activities. Because heightened statutory obligations attach to sensitive data under Maryland law, SB 504’s proposed language makes it less clear when those obligations apply. As a result, identical personal data could be subject to different statutory treatment depending on how processing activities are characterized, rather than based on whether the data reveals or indicates a sensitive characteristic.

Maryland’s existing privacy framework relies on objective criteria to determine when heightened protections apply. Other comprehensive privacy laws similarly address inferred sensitive characteristics while preserving objective statutory triggers tied to whether data reveals or indicates a sensitive characteristic. The Colorado Privacy Act Regulations, for example, provide that sensitive data includes “inferences made by a controller based on personal data, alone or in combination with other data, which are used to indicate an individual’s racial or ethnic origin; religious beliefs; mental or physical health condition or diagnosis; sex life or sexual orientation; or citizenship or citizenship status.”<sup>1</sup> Incorporating inference language in that manner ensures protections apply when sensitive characteristics are actually

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<sup>1</sup> See Colo. Att’y Gen., Colorado Privacy Act Rules, 4 Colo. Code Regs. § 904-3, Rule 2.02 (effective Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/DisplayRule.do?action=ruleinfo&ruleId=3396&deptID=11&agencyID=11&deptName=Department%20of%20Law&agencyName=Attorney%20General-Consumer%20Protection%20Section&seriesNum=4%20CCR%20904-3>.

identified or indicated, without altering the underlying statutory trigger. We suggest removing subsection (hh) and incorporating Colorado's targeted inference language directly into subsection (gg). Specifically, subsection (gg) should include an additional provision stating as follows:

**(gg)(5) "Sensitive data" includes inferences made by a controller based on personal data, alone or in combination with other data, which are used to indicate any of the sensitive data categories identified in subsections (gg)(1) through (gg)(4).**

Third, the bill's revised definition of "Publicly Available Information" raises important constitutional and implementation considerations. SB 504 revises the definition of publicly available information by providing that information obtained from government records qualifies as publicly available only when processed in accordance with any restriction or term of use imposed by the governmental entity. The amendment appears to reflect the Legislature's effort to address how personal information contained in government records may be used after disclosure, particularly where public records include sensitive personal details.

Publicly available government records play an important role in supporting transparency and the lawful exchange of information. Conditioning publicly available status on downstream processing restrictions may make it difficult to determine when information retains its public character, even where the information was lawfully obtained from government sources. Clarifying that lawfully obtained government records remain publicly available would ensure consistency with established constitutional principles while preserving Maryland's privacy framework and providing clear and workable statutory standards.

Finally, should the bill advance, we're requesting an extended effective date of at least a year to allow companies time to address implementation questions and develop guidance.

TechNet supports the intent of this bill – to ensure strong protections for Maryland residents' personal data. The issues addressed in the bill raise important questions regarding how privacy protections are implemented in practice. The recommendations outlined above are intended to ensure the statute can be applied as intended and, in a manner, consistent with Maryland's broader privacy framework. These revisions do not alter the bill's core protections. Instead, they provide clarity regarding how those protections apply, supporting consistent implementation while preserving the Legislature's policy objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Durkin*

Margaret Durkin  
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic

**SB0504-FIN\_MACo\_OPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: UNF



## **Senate Bill 504**

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

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 26, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 504. In pursuit of a policy on sharing data with outside agencies who may use it for immigration enforcement, the bill creates a largely unworkable matrix of custodian mandates, exposing good faith government employees to personal liability under unreasonable expectations.

This bill requires county record custodians to assess the intent and motivation behind all public record requests to ensure they are not being made for the purpose of immigration enforcement. The bill applies to requests made by both government entities and unaffiliated members of the public. To this end, the challenges the bill presents to the record review, release, and redaction process are numerous.

Counties do not take issue with the intent of the bill to protect the private information of an individual that is not legally required to be shared with any federal agency or a member of the public. Balancing personal privacy with public interest is a founding principle of open government laws. This is vital to ensure public trust and government transparency and integrity. County objections to SB 504 arise primarily from three major areas in the process of implementing the bill.

First, the mandate for a subjective assessment, by a custodian, to determine the motivation for a request from a member of the public or a federal agency is of great concern. The traditional process of protecting unwarranted disclosures has historically been targeted at mandating denial of a record based on its content. The introduction of an interrogation to determine the intent of the requestor, rather than simply clarify the need for denial of the record, is against the founding principles of open government. The process is necessarily objective and was not built to scrutinize if the reason a member of the public wants the information is acceptable to the custodian. The contradiction here between the objective structure of the system and the insertion of an explicitly subjective process are undeniably incompatible and will lead to unintended consequences.

The second major concern is the burden on custodians to make these assessments accurately, of every requestor, while ensuring a record's timely release. Public record requests come in many forms, and the bill's mandate could commence a back-and-forth loop via emails, phone calls, and in-person discussions in the assessment of intent – which is both inefficient and ineffective, as intent could easily be misrepresented by the requestor to the custodian. This deliberation could also lead to a backlog in the expedient release of records that must adhere to legally binding disclosure timelines. This puts the

custodian in an almost impossible position, while the bill does nothing to address the penalties that exist for custodians when an error is made.

Finally, the language of the bill requires custodians to deny a court-issued warrant if the document does not specifically identify the record to be accessed. Not all court-ordered warrants identify individualized records to be made available. They could be requesting records of a particular nature or covering broad topics. While some warrants might have those types of clarifications written in the order, others will not, making the extent of required access unclear. This could put the custodian in a position of being held in contempt by the court for denying a lawful warrant because they believe the order is not explicit enough. Alternatively, they could face consequences for allowing access that could be considered too extensive due to lack of clarity.

The question of how best to ensure that privacy and access is maintained when a record request is made to a local government is an important one to address. SB 504 unfortunately has the potential to further complicate an already challenging role and fall short of its overall goal. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 504.

**SB 504 CPD Ltr of Concern.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hanna Abrams

Position: INFO

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**LEONARD J. HOWIE III**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**CARRIE J. WILLIAMS**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY**  
*Deputy Attorney General*



**STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*

**WILLIAM D. GRUHN**  
*Division Chief*

**PHILIP ZIPERMAN**  
*Deputy Division Chief*

**PETER V. BERNS**  
*General Counsel*

**CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA**  
*Chief of Staff*

**HANNA ABRAMS**  
*Assistant Attorney General*

February 26, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee

**FROM:** Hanna Abrams, Assistant Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and  
Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act) – Letter of Concern

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The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General supports the objective of Senate Bill 504 (“SB 504”), sponsored by Senator Lam, but has reservations about the statutory mechanism used to achieve that goal. Senate Bill 504 amends the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (“MODPA”) to create a new category of sensitive attributes and prohibits the sale of sensitive data and other uses for immigration enforcement purposes.<sup>1</sup>

The Division has concerns about the proposed amendment to MODPA creating a category of “sensitive attributes” that is not utilized in the substantive provisions of the MODPA, thereby creating an unnecessary complexity in the statutory framework. Additionally, the Division is concerned about the structural intertwining of the proposed prohibition on the sale of sensitive data for immigration enforcement purposes with the existing prohibitions on the sale of children’s data. The protections provided to children and the accompanying knowledge standard should remain standalone provisions.

The Division has spoken to the proponents of SB 504’s cross-file about our concerns and urges the Finance Committee to consider these concerns in evaluating SB 504.

**cc:** Senator Clarence K. Lam  
Members, Finance Committee

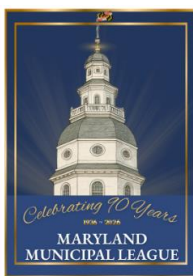
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<sup>1</sup> The Division’s testimony is limited to the MODPA provisions of SB 504.

# **MML - Informational - SB 504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Iris Ibegbulem

Position: INFO



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance

**DATE:** February 26, 2026

**POSITION:** Informational

**BILL:** SB 504

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League, we respectfully submit informational testimony regarding Senate Bill 504, the Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act), and to outline several operational and legal considerations that merit careful review. While the policy objective may be well-intentioned, the structure of the bill is unique in a way that presents potentially precarious implications for custodians of records and other public officials responsible for compliance.

Under longstanding public records practice, custodians do not typically inquire into the intent or purpose of a requester. The existing framework is designed to be content-neutral and requester-neutral, ensuring consistent administration and minimizing subjective determinations. This bill appears to shift that dynamic by requiring custodians to assess or interpret the intent of the requester before responding. Such a change would represent a significant departure from established norms.

Requiring custodians to evaluate requester intent could place them in a difficult and legally vulnerable position. It introduces ambiguity into what has traditionally been a ministerial function and may increase exposure to disputes, inconsistent application across jurisdictions, and potential litigation. MML consistently advocates for clear statutory language that is predictable and easy for local custodians to follow, which minimizes unintended consequences or costly implementation errors.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to provide further information or technical feedback.

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For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Iris Ibegbulem: Manager, Advocacy and Public Policy, [irisi@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:irisi@mdmunicipal.org)

*MML represents 161 local governments and about 2 million Maryland residents.*

**SB0504 - LOI - TSO - Data Privacy - Consumer Data,**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 504 – Data Privacy – Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System (Data Privacy Act)***

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 504 and provides the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Currently, MDOT processes Public Information Act (PIA) requests on a case-by-case basis in accordance with existing State law and established Departmental procedures. Under current law and practice, PIA staff are not permitted to require requesters state the purpose for which records are sought, and requests are processed without regard to the requester’s intended use of the information. Additionally, requesters do not have to provide their name.

If enacted, SB 504 would require PIA staff to take reasonable steps to determine whether a request seeks records for the purpose of immigration enforcement. This new requirement would be procedural in nature and could be incorporated into existing PIA workflows. After such a determination is made, requests would otherwise continue to be processed consistently with current PIA statutes and established Departmental practices.

However, the bill introduces a “reasonable steps” standard that is not defined in statute and may be subject to varying interpretation. Determining a requester’s intent may be challenging in practice, particularly where intent is not readily apparent or is based solely on the requester’s own representation. The absence of clear guidance regarding what constitutes reasonable verification may lead to inconsistent application across requests and staff.

As under existing law, the first two hours of staff time devoted to responding to a PIA request are provided at no cost to the requester. Staff time exceeding this threshold is charged to the requester unless a fee waiver is granted, in which case the associated costs are absorbed by the Transportation Trust Fund or the Maryland Transportation Authority Funds. SB 504 does not mandate new staffing, creation of a new program, or system modifications specific to MDOT. While the Department cannot reliably estimate the number of future requests that may implicate immigration enforcement, there is no indication that the volume or complexity of such requests would materially exceed current workloads. Accordingly, any additional effort associated with implementation could be absorbed using existing resources, resulting in no fiscal impact to MDOT.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information as part of its deliberations on Senate Bill 504.

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Page Two

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Mickler  
Director, Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090

**sb504.pdf**

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: INFO

HON. STACY A. MAYER  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR  
ASSISTANT STATE COURT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
P: (410)260-1523

## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne Pelz  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 504  
Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message  
Switching System (Data Privacy Act)  
**DATE:** February 16, 2026  
(2/26)

### INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER

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The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges the policy-making authority of the legislative branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation. The Judiciary only writes to note some of the procedural and operational changes that would be required under this bill.

This bill provides that a custodian may not knowingly disclose a public MVA record containing personal information to a “person” or “government agency” for immigration enforcement in the absence of a warrant. The current law prohibits disclosure to a “federal agent” or “federal agency” in the absence of warrant. There are court records that contain MVA records, and without the limitation of “federal agency” or “federal agent,” a clerk would not be able to identify whether a “person” is seeking the record for immigration purposes.

Similarly, there is an added requirement that “a custodian shall take reasonable steps to determine whether a person seeking access to a public record is doing so for the purpose of enforcing immigration law.” This would impact access to business license records as

this change would require the Clerks of Court to affirmatively determine an individual's motivation for seeking access to such records.

Moreover, if a custodian does make a disclosure prohibited by the revised statutes, they would be subject to liability. Placing liability on individual officers or employees of the court for releasing documents under the Public Information Act increases the risk of these disclosures.

cc. Hon. Clarence Lam  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor