

Senate version HB0264 Data Privacy.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Manuel

Position: FAV

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

Senate Finance Committee

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 HB 0264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026.

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.

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, including names, addresses, court records, probation schedules, phone data, drivers' license information, and data from our license plates. And they are selling that sensitive personal information 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 the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026 is a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

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SEIU Local 500 - Testimony in Support of HB 264 Se

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - HB 264, Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026
Favorable
Senate Finance Committee
April 1, 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, which represents thousands of public sector and nonprofit workers across Maryland, including early childhood educators, school support staff, college faculty, and other public servants strongly supports House Bill 264.

SEIU Local 500 believes that protecting personal information is not only a matter of cybersecurity, but a fundamental safeguard against government overreach. Our members are required to share sensitive personal information with the State as a condition of employment—often including home addresses, financial information, biometric data, health information, and immigration or citizenship status. Without clear limits on how this information is collected, retained, and shared, workers are left vulnerable to misuse, mission creep, and unintended harm.

HB 264 meaningfully strengthens Maryland law by affirming that personal information collected by the State must be limited to a legitimate government purpose, narrowly tailored to the minimum necessary, and retained only for as long as it is reasonably needed. These guardrails are critical to ensuring that information shared for administrative purposes is not later repurposed for surveillance, enforcement actions, or other uses unrelated to why it was collected in the first place.

We are especially encouraged by the bill's expanded and modernized definition of "personal information" and "sensitive data," which explicitly includes biometric data, precise geolocation data, health and mental health information, genetic data, and immigration or citizenship status. These categories reflect the real-world risks workers face today, particularly immigrant workers and those in public-facing or politically sensitive roles, who are disproportionately harmed when sensitive data is mishandled or shared beyond its original scope.

HB 264 also promotes transparency and accountability by requiring State units to clearly disclose why personal information is collected, whether it will be shared, and what rights individuals have to inspect or correct their records. For workers, this transparency is essential to building trust and ensuring that compliance with government processes does not come at the expense of personal safety or privacy.

Finally, the bill's requirements for privacy officers, standardized privacy notices, and limits on third-party contractors' use of personal data are critical protections in an era where data brokers and secondary markets increasingly profit from government-held information. Government should never be a pipeline through which workers' personal information is commodified or redistributed beyond their control.

Public servants should not have to choose between doing their jobs and protecting their privacy. HB 264 strikes an appropriate balance between effective governance and individual rights, and it sends a clear message that Maryland values data minimization, purpose limitation, and personal dignity.

SEIU Local 500 respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 264.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

kenna_ida-21218-HB264.pdf

Uploaded by: ida kenna

Position: FAV

ida kenna

Chair of Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America's Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy Working Group

ida.kenna@protonmail.com

Resident of 21218

March 30, 2026

Concerning **HB264**, Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026 — **Favorable**

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I urge you to give HB264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026, a favorable report and advance it to a floor vote.

One thing I've appreciated about the State of Maryland is its adoption of Data Minimization principles. The current political moment provides us with a severe example of how the storage of sensitive and identifying information beyond its necessity can make people vulnerable to bad actors. The same can be said for so many data leaks and hacks. As a trans person and political activist, and having seen others get hunted down by way of state data, I value data minimization as an essential privacy policy for all services. I would guess that the oncoming years of this federal administration will only sharpen its importance.

Thank you for doing this work of transforming Maryland for the better. I urge you to pass HB264 with a favorable report and ensure your colleagues pass it on the floor.

Solidarity,

ida

Hess - HB 0264.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Hess

Position: FAV

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

Senate Finance Committee

Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Jennifer Hess. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for almost 30 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 HB 0264, the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026.

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.

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.

These companies are now making huge profits by selling access to their massive databases of personal information, including names, addresses, court records, probation schedules, phone data, drivers' license information, and data from our license plates. And they are selling that sensitive personal information 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. 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 the Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026 is a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Hess
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Maryland Catholic Conference_FAVHB264_SENATE CROSS

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

April 1st 2026

HB264

Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026

Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 264**. 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.

House Bill 264 establishes important safeguards around how State government agencies collect, maintain, process, and retain personal information. It limits unnecessary data collection, requires that certain information be deleted or de-identified when no longer needed, and mandates that agencies provide clear and accessible privacy notices. Additionally, the bill requires each unit of State government to designate a Privacy Officer to ensure accountability and proper oversight of data practices.

The intent of this bill is to strengthen trust between Maryland residents and their government by ensuring that personal information is handled responsibly and transparently. In an era where data is increasingly central to how services are delivered; it is essential that individuals feel confident their information is protected and not misused. This legislation provides a proactive framework that balances operational needs with the fundamental right to privacy.

Respecting privacy is an extension of respecting human dignity, ensuring that individuals are not reduced to data points but treated with care and integrity. The benefits of this bill extend to individuals, families, and communities across Maryland. Strong data protections help prevent misuse, reduce the risk of breaches, and allow residents to engage with public services without fear. Communities benefit from increased trust in public institutions, while families gain peace of mind knowing their personal information is safeguarded. This is especially important for vulnerable populations who may be at greater risk if their data is improperly handled.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 264**.

2025 WLC HB 264 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 264 – Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026

Hearing Date: April 1, 2026

Position: Support

The Women's Law Center of Maryland strongly supports *House Bill 264 – Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026*. The legislation strengthens data privacy policies for State agencies under the direction of the Maryland Department of Information Technology. State agencies will be encouraged: 1) to collect only the most necessary data to support state government functions; and 2) retain data only for the amount of time it is needed. This thoughtful approach will help the State of Maryland to minimize data privacy risks posed in today's environment.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.

2026 ACNM HB 264 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 264 – Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026

Hearing Date: April 1, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 264 – Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026*. The bill establishes core principles of data privacy for State agency information technology systems. These principles include ensuring the State only collects data necessary for state governance and retains the data for as long as it needs. ACNM appreciates the efforts of the Maryland Department of Information Technology to incorporate these data privacy principles in IT systems throughout state government.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Revised_ House Bill 264- DoIT Written Testimony.do

Uploaded by: Sara Elalamy

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: House Bill 264 - Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026
DATE: April 2, 2026
POSITION: Support

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 264 - Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026, the Department of Information Technology's departmental bill before the Senate Finance Committee.

Over the past decade, the amount of personal information collected by Maryland State Agencies has increased dramatically. Existing state law fails to address modern data practices, emerging technologies, and the role of third-party vendors. HB 264 is an essential update to current state law that addresses these new risks

This legislation limits the collection of personal records to only what is necessary. The data must be accurate, recent, and most importantly, securely deleted or de-identified once it is no longer needed. It also broadens the definition of "personal information" by incorporating "sensitive data," which includes identifiers related to protected classes, such as gender identification, citizenship, and immigration status, to better protect said information. This legislation will also impose new, stringent security and privacy requirements on third-party contractors that handle personal information.

By modernizing Maryland's information security and promoting privacy best practices, House Bill 264 will give citizens greater confidence from the state's transparency in its processing of and actions to secure their personal information

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Committee's support of House Bill 264. Thank you for your consideration.



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology

HB0264 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: sharlimar douglass

Position: FAV



HB264 Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026

Position: Favorable

April 1, 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 strong support of HB264 Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026.**

MAREE is working toward a future where our public education system centers and serves the needs of Black and Brown students, ensuring all students can thrive. Together, we are advocating and building a statewide movement of parents, students, educators, community members and policymakers to ensure every Black and Brown student in Maryland gets the high-quality public education they are owed.

In recent years, the erosion of data privacy protections has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. The Maryland Data Privacy Act **HB264** takes critical steps to restore trust by ensuring that state and local agencies, as well as law enforcement entities, are prohibited from sharing personal information, facial recognition data, and access to public facilities with federal immigration authorities unless a valid warrant is presented.

MAREE stands with immigrant communities and supports the Maryland Data Privacy Act because it will:

1. **Limit Access to Databases and Facilities:** Law enforcement agencies and state or local government units must deny access to sensitive data and facilities to individuals seeking to enforce federal immigration law without a valid court-issued warrant.
2. **Protect Personal Information:** The Act prohibits the disclosure of personal data, photographs, and biometric information, such as facial recognition scans, to federal immigration authorities unless due legal processes are followed.
3. **Provide Accountability and Transparency:** Agencies must maintain records of all access requests and submit annual reports to the Attorney General and the General Assembly to ensure compliance and transparency.
4. **Ensure Enforcement and Penalties:** The Attorney General is empowered to enforce these protections, with civil penalties for violations and disciplinary actions for state employees who fail to comply.

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. MAREE urges the committee to vote favorably HB264.

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

HB0264_fav_mascioli.pdf

Uploaded by: William Mascioli

Position: FAV

HB0264 - SUPPORT

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

April 1, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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