

February 6, 2026

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**TESTIMONY ON HB0264 – IN SUPPORT**

**Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026**

**TO:** Chair Delegate Melissa Wells, Vice Chair Delegate Kenneth Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections 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 HB0264, Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026, 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 HB0264.