

HB0351 - SUPPORT
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HB0351–Public Safety – Federal Agents – Digital Unmasking

House Judiciary Committee
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Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is William Mascioli. 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 support HB 0351, Public Safety - Federal Agents - Digital Unmasking.

Federal immigration agents have been operating all over the country as if our laws did not apply to them. Masked and 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.

Violence seems to be an essential part of immigration agents' *modus operandi*; they actually seem to delight in using excessive force. ICE's calling card is the smashed car window, the mother thrown on the ground, the child crying in fear or choking on pepper spray. Videos of brutal apprehensions are posted on government social media accounts, as if for entertainment.

Our state needs to make clear that we do not accept these lawless tactics. We need to impose a price on agents who would terrorize the most vulnerable members of our community as if their lives did not count. Allowing such crimes and abuses to continue unchecked invites further abuses. HB0351 would be an important step towards accountability by instructing the state police to gather and preserve evidence in the case of a complaint of misconduct by federal agents.

It is important to clarify what this bill *does not do* as well as what it does. The administration frequently accuses those seeking to hold their agents accountable of wanting to "dox" government agents and thereby put their lives in danger.

This bill is not about doxing. Digital evidence gathered by the state police would only be turned over to a court authorized to hear a complaint of wrongdoing. HB0351 is a straightforward method to protect our community from violations of basic rights. It is basic accountability, plain and simple. I urge a favorable report on HB0351 and thank you for your consideration.