

HB 351 – Public Safety – Federal Agents – Digital Unmasking

IN FAVOR

Honorable Delegates:

I am a private citizen. I have been appalled, saddened and outraged by the many ways in which individuals hired by DHS (ICE/CBP) have been breaking the law and violating the rights supposedly protected by our Federal Constitution. These are not normal times. People with clothing that marks them as officials are carrying guns and other mechanisms by which to cause physical harm – and other kinds of harm.

Insofar as they are being instructed to ignore the laws and our rights, or insofar as they feel that they can act with impunity, it is essential that there be mechanisms by which to hold them accountable. If the Federal government has gone “rogue”, then we absolutely need protections at the state level.

We are no longer in a phase of wondering what *might* happen; we have seen clear evidence of patterns of behavior that violate the rights of innocent people. We need to assure that our first amendment, fourth amendment and fifth amendment rights are respected. We need to assure that federal agents will be held accountable when they purposefully engage in conduct that is outside the permitted boundaries set by our Constitution, state laws and regulations.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to ensure that Federal agents are not unduly or unnecessarily revealed or targeted. But with the proper procedures, they must be identified.

Please support this legislation – for the sake of all residents of Maryland, whether citizens or not.

Thank you for your commitment to the rule of law, and to the safety and well-being of all Marylanders.

I urge you to report this bill out favorably.

Thank you

Marcia Greenberg

St Mary’s County