



Remarks By
George H. Lambert, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Greater Washington Urban League

Unmask Hate Act

February 24, 2025

Good afternoon,

I am George Lambert, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Washington Urban League. As an affiliate of the National Urban League we are a historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization with 90 affiliates serving 300 communities. The footprint of the Greater Washington Urban League is Washington DC, Prince George's County Maryland and Montgomery County Maryland.

I am here to offer testimony in support of the proposed legislation prohibiting masked intimidation. Communities of color often face targeted violence from extremist groups that harbor racist ideologies. This violence can be manifested in physical attacks, hate crimes, and even mass shootings, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

Hate campaigns can exacerbate the marginalization of communities of color, reinforcing negative stereotypes and societal biases. This can lead to further discrimination in areas such as employment, education, and housing, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. Moreover, the rise of hate and extremism can erode social cohesion, making it more difficult for diverse communities to come together to address common issues, advocate for their rights, and build a more inclusive society.



Addressing hate and extremism requires a comprehensive approach that includes education, community engagement, and POLICY CHANGES aimed at protecting vulnerable communities and promoting understanding and inclusivity. To be clear, I strongly support a bill that prohibits individuals (while concealing their face) from intentionally harassing, intimidating, or threatening a person AND “with the intent to place another person in reasonable fear of their physical safety.

In closing, I want to thank Senators Waldstreicher and Jackson as the Senate co-sponsors of this bill. Finally, I respectfully urge you to use your power to stop the resurgence of masked harassment in Maryland.

Thank you.

Mr. George H. Lambert, Jr.
President & CEO