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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers -
Prohibition on Face Coverings
January 20th, 2026
TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Sean Lesley

Good morning! Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Sean, I live in Laurel, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0001, Prohibition on Face Coverings.

Trust in public servants and civic institutions, like our local police and fire departments, is part of what has always made America great. However, that trust is a two-way street - both parties have to keep up their end of the bargain to keep this trust from eroding. Face coverings and masks on police, outside of SWAT situations, represent a dire blow to that bargain and both my ability and desire to trust both any individual officer and the institution as a whole.

Passage of this law would considerably assuage my fears that the excesses seen elsewhere in our country will come here to Maryland.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting masked law enforcement is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support SB 0001 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement keep up their end of the bargain and can continue to justly serve our great state.