

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lahiruni Dias, and I am a resident of **Montgomery County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB1 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

I support **SB1** as the bill aims to prevent federal, state or local law enforcement agents from wearing masks or other facial coverings while on duty. Facial coverings, outside of surgical grade-medical masks and other respiratory equipment that may be needed while on the job, prevent the identification of officers by residents in contact with them.

Identifying officers is a necessary step in reporting excessive violence, racial profiling, or other discrimination people may face at the hands of law enforcement officials. Ultimately, this is a measure needed to hold officers accountable for their performance as public servants.

In light of ICE activity around the country, this requirement would reduce fear during contact with law enforcement and aid in a just process where victims of violence and other residents can exercise the rights afforded to them by the Bill of Rights and U.S. Constitution.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 1**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.