

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

My name is Jered Ebenreck, and I am a resident of Calvert County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

Masks are relevant to stop disease transmission, air pollution, and workplace hazards in factories and research laboratories. Masks on officers, especially those they refuse to remove in order to be identified, represent a double-standard—somehow citizens in masks gathering to peacefully protest are a threat, but officers need masks to protect them ... despite the fact that those officers are armed with guns, the law (ostensibly in the case of ICE), and cadres of others who are armed just like them. Knowing who they are keeps cops honest—masked cops are shady.

It is important for public safety that ICE officers can be identified. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they watch someone being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. Wouldn't you?!? There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer. The footage I have seen shows how scary it is for these masked agents to roll up in a group, barge down doors, pull people from cars and shoot them in broad daylight near schools, hospitals, and department stores. If they are proud of what they do, let them show their faces in our communities. Using masks reveals their shame.

Our county sheriff values transparency and the community benefits from this. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jered Ebenreck, jebenreck@icloud.com