

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0001 - 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 Lana Foley and I am a Salisbury, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

I believe that face coverings should be banned because they create more terror than necessary. Aggressive force and brutal tactics are causing so much trauma and violence with our ICE agents currently. If they were responsible and presented themselves with guidelines and humanity then they would be held responsible for their actions.

Law Enforcement Officers have to clearly identify themselves. They follow rules and guidelines and are held responsible for their actions. Why should ICE be any different? They are abusing their powers and terrifying people in our communities.

I had a young mother swarmed by 7 masked agents in front of our house. She had just dropped her 5 year old off at school and if we had been 15 minutes late that day our 8 year old child would have witness these agents busting our this poor woman's window. I guarantee if they had approached her in a manner of treating her like a human she wouldn't have been so terrified. She is only 4'10" tall and they didn't give her any reason for her being swarmed. This woman had been in our country since she was 2 years old. They are abusing the masks and creating fear. They need to be visible. It will eliminate the absurd behaviors when they know they are being watched and held

accountable. I don't want my child or myself to be around these people. The public should be able to know who they are just like our law enforcement.

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. There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer. 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.

Sincerely

Lana Foley