



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

January 22, 2026

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 1, *Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings*

Support

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1, the *Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings*. The bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a policy prohibiting the use of face coverings by a law enforcement officer that conceals or obscures the officer's facial identity in the course of duty and requires a law enforcement agency to adopt a face covering policy consistent with the Commission's policy. Exceptions to the mask prohibition include allowances for tactical operations for purposes of physical safety, and medical masks applicable for occupational health and safety. A law enforcement officer who violates the mask ban would be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, would be subject to imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of \$2,000 or both.

As the Trump Administration ramps up immigration enforcement, raids by mask-wearing agents of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement have terrorized our communities and have had a chilling effect on local law enforcement. Residents who may have been generally supportive of the police, and who previously trusted law enforcement to provide community safety and promote stability, have either lost that relationship with police officers or have become extremely suspicious of any law enforcement in their midst.

I am certain that numerous legal and operational concerns will be raised as the Committee deliberates the provisions of Senate Bill 1 and will need to be addressed. I stand ready to support the Committee in any way as it works to address these issues.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee