

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings / SB0001

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Judicial Proceeding Committee

My name is Cecilia Romero, I'm a Sophomore at Baltimore City College and a member of SOMOS. I support SB0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

This bill allows the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a model policy that limits the use of face covering by law enforcement officers while on duty, except when they are actively engaged in undercover operations. Requiring agencies to follow this policy ensures that officers are clearly identifiable while performing their duties.

I truly believe that passing of this bill is essential because it promotes safety, transparency and even accountability in our communities. When officers are visible and identifiable, it builds trust between law enforcements and the public, this reduces fear during interactions. This is especially important for those who deserve to feel protected, not intimidated, by those meant to serve them.

Additionally, this bill ensures that if any law enforcement officer, including ICE agents, commits a crime or abuses their authority while carrying out their duties, they can be recognized and held accountable rather than being able to hide their identity behind a face covering. Accountability is a key part of justice and fairness, and this policy helps reinforce that indeed no one is above the law.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

Cecilia Romero

Students Organizing a Multicultural and Open Society (SOMOS)

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<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0155/?ys=2026rs>

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