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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

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TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Patricia Lesley

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Patricia, I live in Laurel, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0001, Prohibition on Face Coverings.

As the news gets worse in this country, and we hear reports of ICE coming to Maryland to continue spreading fear and breaking up families, it is important to make sure we can someday hold them accountable. It's also important to make sure we can actually identify police and other government employees both for their own protection to ensure bad actors cannot pretend to be a federal official without repercussions.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting masked law enforcement is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support SB 0001 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.