



The Garrett County Branch of NAACP strongly supports SB1 with a full ban on face coverings for law enforcement officers.

The NAACP was formed in 1909 partly due to the violent white supremacist attacks, including those by **masked** groups like the KKK and other mobs. The brutal 1908 Springfield Race Riot serving as a major catalyst for its founding in 1909 to fight racism, lynching, and discrimination. Masked mobs brutally attacking the Black community has been a significant part of our country's dark history and it is appalling to see it happening in Black and Brown urban neighborhoods today.

The Garrett County Branch of the NAACP supports the position of the national NAACP

The NAACP strongly opposes the use of masks by ICE agents during operations, viewing it as a tactic for intimidation, lack of accountability, and a continuation of systemic oppression, highlighting it as part of a pattern of racial profiling, unconstitutional actions, and violence against Black and Brown communities, demanding congressional action to hold ICE accountable and protect due process.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson condemned ICE's "egregious attack in Chicago" and other cities, linking masked agents to trauma, brutality, and intimidation against Black and Brown individuals. The NAACP joins civil rights groups in urging Congress to investigate and check ICE's use of force, lack of transparency, and constitutional violations, including those involving masked agents.

The Garrett County NAACP sees masked ICE operations as a violation of civil rights, a tool of oppression, and a threat to democracy, requiring immediate reform and accountability for the agency. While we hope that our United States representatives will also act to stop the use of face coverings, we now urge our Maryland representatives to take the lead in banning this abhorrent, cowardly and unnecessary practice on the part of law enforcement agencies, including ICE.

For these reasons we ask for your favorable vote on SB1 with a full ban on face coverings for law enforcement officers.

GCNAACP Branch Leadership