

Testimony on SB0001 – Favorable

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 Marcia Greenberg and I am a resident of Lexington Park in St Mary's County. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Prohibition on Face Coverings

I earned my JD degree from Northwestern School of Law, where I studied constitutional law. I graduated from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where I studied human rights and international law. In the early 1990s, I reviewed nominees from Latin American for the Reebok Human Rights award, and worked for the RF Kennedy Center for Human Rights where we focused on Guatemala, South Africa and South Korea. I worked in Eastern Europe in the early 90s after the Berlin Wall came down. I also worked on a contract for USAID ensuring that women would contribute and benefit from US-sponsored democracy programs around the world – particularly in Eastern Europe and West Africa.

So I know quite a bit about repressive regimes, authoritarian tactics, and governments that spy on and “disappear” their own people. And I never, ever – in my wildest nightmares – imagined that our country, the United States of America, would slide into terrorizing our own communities in ways reminiscent of Russia and East Germany, of Pinochet in Chile and the military in Argentina, of Duterte in the Philippines and the military in Myanmar.

Such “official” treatment of citizens and innocent residents by government-led thugs, should not happen in the United States of America. It violates all that we hold true – both legally and morally. What we see now – with ICE agents terrorizing our communities, dragging people out of their cars and their homes, and murdering peaceful protesters – must be stopped in every way possible. They are ruthless and cruel; they ignore our laws and due process. And they are doing it all while hiding their faces, MASKED! We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

As long as the Republicans control the House, Senate and White House, we cannot stop this ICE horror at the federal level. Even if we had counties that were willing to protect our neighbors, many do not have the mechanisms to stop it – and some “red counties” would continue to collaborate with ICE. At the local level, this is despite the fact that public safety for ALL of us depends on being able to identify ICE agents. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they see a member of their community being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. How would we be able to distinguish kidnappers and gangs from ICE? There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer.

Finally, why are they masked in the first place? Are they embarrassed? Do they worry that their friends, family, former coaches and teachers, local pastors and mentors ... will be disgusted that they have

accepted monetary incentives, and taken jobs that involve vicious tactics against innocent people and sowing terror in our communities? If they have some concern about people knowing what they are doing, then maybe they should search their hearts and get out.

So let's help them: Let's get rid of masks in Maryland! Unable to protect ourselves at the federal and county levels, it is imperative that protections be passed and enforced at the state level. We turn to you, our Senators, to urge you to do the right thing for all Marylanders.

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.

Marcia Greenberg