



**Testimony on SB1**  
**Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Prohibition on Face Coverings**  
**Position: Favorable**

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights, equity, and housing justice for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

**Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in support of SB1.**

Through our tenant and older adult direct service programs, Economic Action Maryland Fund serves immigrant clients and communities. Our work to expand economic security is harmed when seniors and eligible renters do not attend community workshops and outreach efforts due to fear and intimidation by masked officers. Our best avenue to reach older adults to assist them with tax credits is through personal outreach at senior and community centers while our fair housing and tenant work to educate individuals about their rights relies on a mix of online and in-person events.

Given the cost-of-living crisis and the cuts in federal assistance, everyday Marylanders need access to economic supports and information to assist renters and those facing housing discrimination now more than ever.

Masked law enforcement officers reduce public trust in law enforcement and may make law-abiding Marylanders less likely to turn to officers when in need.

For these reasons, Economic Action Maryland Fund supports SB1 and urges a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director

*Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.*