

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB0001

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Organization: Thomas Potyraj (self)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

My name is Thomas Potyraj. I am a resident of Catonsville. I support SB0001 prohibiting face coverings on law enforcement officers, with an amendment.

I believe that face coverings undermine trust between law enforcement officers and the citizens that they serve. They suggest that enforcement officers are not part of the community, and discourage cooperation. Therefore, I approve of their prohibition.

I am concerned about section (4)(B) that states that the prohibition does not apply to a law enforcement officer actively engaged in an undercover operation. Could ICE claim that the entirety of its activities were undercover operations? If so, then the prohibition would not apply for any ICE activities. I would therefore recommend that section (4)(B) be removed from the bill.

Therefore, I support SB0001 with the amendment that section (4)(B) be removed.