

Written testimony for SB001, FAVORABLE. Spear

Dear Senators,

Please vote in favor of SB001, which will ban ICE from wearing face coverings in Maryland.

ICE is an out-of-control, para-military police force, acting without regard for Constitutional safeguards and due process.

We do need an agency with a mission to protect our borders and to arrest and deport violent criminals who are in this country illegally. But the methods used for apprehension and deportation must follow our laws and Constitution. ICE currently ignores these safeguards.

Faceless government agents breaking car windows and grabbing people off the street do not encourage the trust between citizens and law enforcement so necessary to successful policing.

At the very least, we must insist that ICE agents' faces be recognizable. In our view, they should also wear name badges showing their name, agency, and badge number; carry bodycams to record interactions with civilians; and carry out searches and arrests only with judicially- approved warrants.

When ICE does detain someone, that individual must be brought before a local magistrate, where the accused individual has a chance to show that the arrest was not warranted. This must occur before the individual is shipped off to who-knows-where.

Anyway, as a first step in reining in ICE, please vote in favor of SB001. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Mary Helen Spear, Swanton, Mary;and