

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Hello, my name is Ishai Barnoy and I'm a constituent from Baltimore City.

I am writing in support of **SB 0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

I care about prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with ICE first and foremost because of the horrifying images and stories out of the takeover in Minneapolis, most recently, but also from previous instances all around the nation. It really looks like a lawless descent of Trump's personal thugs as a way to punish people who do not support him. But it's more than that, it finally obviously looks like this is what ICE and by extension the whole DHS was meant to be: A tool of state terror, to be applied not only against innocent immigrants, but also citizens.

Being that I, myself, am an immigrant and a naturalized citizen, I am terrified by and furious about ICE. I urge you to support any effort to allow the state of Maryland to stand up to that department of violent goons and to protect the residents of Maryland by opposing ICE in this way but also any possible way.

This bill, **SB 0001**, will maximize both public safety and community health and well being in Baltimore City and in the state of Maryland overall by:

- ensuring that limited state and local resources are dedicated to proven public safety strategies
- restoring trust in community law enforcement
- preventing intimidation and harassment of innocent people, immigrants and citizens alike
- reinforcing the constitutional and civil rights of all residents

Escalating tensions with federal ICE agents and collaboration by local law enforcement threaten to undermine our health, our safety, and the constitutional right to due process. By keeping law enforcement visible and accountable, and ending controversial immigration enforcement agreements, this bill will promote fairness, dignity, and justice for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

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