

**Testimony for: HB 0351 Constitutional Rights - Violations and Digital Unmasking
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Favorable position**

Submitted by Cathy Stogel

Dear Honorable Committee members,

As a resident of Howard County I am writing in support of HB 0351. It is an extremely necessary step to insure the safety of Maryland residents. ICE agents must be held accountable for their misconduct.

If there is no accountability for federal law enforcement officers operating here in Maryland than we no longer have any protection from civil rights violations.

ICE agents hide behind masks so they can not be identified when they break laws. This bill would ensure that those exercising state power can be identified. Sadly we have all heard about numerous instances of people pretending to be ICE agents while threatening and attempting to detain residents!

The bill will enable state authorities to preserve evidence (such as surveillance or cellphone data) to ensure that when misconduct occurs it can be investigated and prosecuted.

This legislation will also allow victims of (alleged) misconduct to seek compensation in Maryland courts, aiming to stop federal agents from violating constitutional rights under the cover of anonymity.

Please vote favorably on this bill to protect the safety and civil rights of all Marylanders.

Thank you,
Cathy Stogel
Ellicott City