



Testimony on Senate Bill 1 – Favorable
SB 1 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The Luminus Network respectfully offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 1 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

The Luminus Network was founded in 1981 in Howard County as the Foreign-born Immigrant Resource Network (FIRN) to help immigrant students at Howard Community College assimilate to life in central Maryland. We are currently serving immigrants across central Maryland with immigration legal services, including such services as work permit renewals, asylum applications, DACA renewals, other adjustments of status, and U-Visas. Luminus is guided by our core values in everything we do: community, trustworthy, inclusive, supportive, and sustainable.

Requiring that agents of law enforcement be identifiable by prohibiting masking helps enable clear community oversight, furthers public safety, fosters accountability for bad actors, and eliminates confusion within all communities, both immigrant and not.

SB 1 represents Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state government believes that masked strangers should not be allowed to tear families apart, undermine public trust, or disappear Maryland residents. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting masking among law enforcement officers acting in their official capacities within our state.

Nationwide, masking has led to bad actors impersonating Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. This practice emboldens vigilantes to commit mayhem and terrorize communities. We continue to see several chilling effects in central Maryland: parents are reluctant to send their children to school, harming the children's academic futures, families are frightened to leave their homes, increasing demand on charitable support for food deliveries, and rumors spread through immigrant communities, creating fear and fomenting panic.

For these reasons, the Luminus Network urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee members to vote favorably on **SB 1**.