



January 20, 2026

The Honorable William Smith
Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and other distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Shari Rendall, and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of concerned individuals fighting for immigration policy that is in America's best interest.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment. Founded in 1979, FAIR has more than three million members and supporters nationwide, including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1.

If enacted, SB 1 would prohibit a law enforcement officer from wearing a mask, which would violate the Supremacy Clause by attempting to regulate federal agencies and forcing them to adopt certain policies.

Moreover, this legislation demonizes law enforcement officers who are simply trying to protect their identities and keep themselves and their families safe by stating that a generalized and undifferentiated fear and apprehension about safety is insufficient to justify wearing a mask.

Finally, SB 1 interferes with ICE officers' abilities to operate safely at a time when ICE law enforcement officers face a more than 1,300 percent increase in assaults, a 3,200 percent increase in vehicular attacks against them, and an 8,000 percent increase in death threats. The bill simply sows division and hatred of immigration officials.

Ironically, while this bill will forbid immigration enforcement officials from wearing masks to protect themselves, anti-ICE protesters are regularly depicted in photographs wearing masks.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR opposes SB 1 and urges the Committee to vote unfavorably on this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Shari" and "Rendall" being capitalized and prominent.

Shari Rendall