

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable**

**SB 0001 – 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,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 0001 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**

When law enforcement officers wear masks and/or don't clearly identify themselves, attack people, haul them off the streets, and out of their homes, workplaces, cars, and communities, they become indistinguishable from criminals. They become kidnappers. They terrorize individuals, families, and neighborhoods. At a minimum, they should be required to be identifiable. Otherwise, any criminal could put on a mask and be taken for law enforcement officers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 0001**.

Thank you.