

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0001 - 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 **Katherine Vaughn**, and I am a resident of **Catonsville, Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

I am a concerned citizen who loves my friends, neighbors, and community members and wants them to live in peace and security, especially those who are immigrants, people of color, and people exercising their First Amendment rights to peacefully protest.

It is important for public safety that ICE officers can be identified. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they watch someone being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer, which I find terrifying.

Our county sheriff values transparency and the community has benefited from this. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.