

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 Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C; I'm a resident of Baltimore County and a clinical social worker. I am writing in support of SB 0001 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings.

The increase in ICE activity in our state is a direct result of the authoritarian takeover of the U.S. federal government. ICE officers are modern slave catchers, kidnapping people of color on sight without any concern for the law or Constitution. We in Maryland must use every possible resource and pull every lever of power that we can to prevent more of our neighbors from ICE/DHS detention. Maryland must ban ICE officers from wearing face coverings as part of this great task.

Law enforcement officers must be visibly identifiable: their faces, names, and badge numbers. Studies show officers with face coverings act more brutally. With face coverings, law enforcement officers are more easily impersonated.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C