

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 001– 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 Emily Peterson, and I am a resident in Baltimore, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 001 – Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

I am a graduate student studying history at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. I recently worked on a project highlighting one of Baltimore's foremost civil rights leaders, Juanita Jackson Mitchell. Mitchell was the first Black woman to become a practicing lawyer in Maryland and worked on a number of important civil rights cases along with the likes of Thurgood Marshall. One of these cases was to protect the rights of Marylanders from being racially profiled by police officers who went door-to-door without warrants. Mitchell was an ardent opponent of police brutality and believed that individuals should be protected from being targeted on account of their race or neighborhood. When I think of what ICE is doing today, I think Maryland's foremost civil rights leaders would be appalled with the lack of accountability among ICE officers today.

I support **SB 001** because immigration enforcement officers should be accountable and identifiable in the instance that they instigate violence (which has already happened in places like [Glen Burnie](#)). We don't allow police officers to wear face coverings, so there should not be a different standard for ICE officers who receive even less training on de-escalation tactics than police officers. Face coverings offer an anonymity that may incentivize ICE officers to act irresponsibly or violently without having to face repercussions.

As a resident of Baltimore, I deeply feel that we must protect all of our citizens from harm, including those who are undocumented. Prohibiting face coverings is just one piece to achieve this.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 001**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.