

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
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 Catherine Morrison, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

While I, fortunately, have never experienced a confrontation with a masked law enforcement officer, I am sickened by the pictures of terrified people being physically restrained by people in masks. I believe that the anonymity of a mask enables an officer to somehow lose his/her regard for humanity and behave in manners that they would otherwise find unacceptable. I believe that a person, when being confronted by a law officer, has a right to identify by name and badge number, their confronter. While it happens rarely, there are reports of individuals impersonating law enforcement officers and committing crimes themselves. A ban on masks makes it simple and clear to all what is legitimate police activity and what is not.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 0001. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Catherine Morrison