



**SB0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**Bill Sponsor: Senators Augustine**

**Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings**

**Hearing Date: January 22, 2026**

**Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

HoCo Climate Action is a [350.org](https://350.org) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and a just and clean energy future.

We urge you to vote favorably on **SB0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**, which would prohibit local, state and law enforcement agencies from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

Members of our organization have been horrified by federal agents' illegal and unconstitutional actions. Their thuggish behavior includes unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling and destroys the fabric of our society and democracy.

Our work is focused on addressing climate change in a just and equitable way for Howard County and all Marylanders. We inform, educate, and engage with communities and legislators advocating for critical climate justice policy. We work in partnership with other groups and coalitions and seek to support and lift up the issues, needs, and goals of frontline communities and communities of color. Many of these communities are already overburdened and underserved and should not be subjected to masked immigration enforcement agents.

We support **SB0001** because we do not want "secret police" terrorizing our communities. When officers hide their identity, they are accountable to no one. We are all in danger when we have no idea who is stopping us and asking for personal identification. Masking makes legitimate law enforcement more difficult, because people cannot distinguish between legitimate enforcement and criminal activity.

We have seen reports of bad actors impersonating federal, state, and local law enforcement officers around the country and here in MD. This creates unacceptable fear. As a result, people will be less likely to cooperate, which only escalates encounters with the "secret police."

This legislation promotes transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

We support **SB0001** and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

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