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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0155, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers -
Prohibition on Face Coverings

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TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Jane Zagajeski

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jane, I live in Silver Spring, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0155, Prohibition on Face Coverings.

As a teacher, mother, neighbor, wife, and Maryland resident, I am baffled by the situation we find ourselves in. How can ICE be allowed to operate like secret police in our communities? If I am stopped while driving by people in masks, how would I reasonably know if they are legitimate or trying to carjack me? If people in masks come to my door, how will my son know if they are “safe helpers” or the bad guys? I am a middle-aged, American-born white woman and as such, feel safe from actually being deported. But many of my neighbors, students, colleagues, and fellow Maryland residents do not have this luxury of “assumed safety.” For everyone’s safety, prohibiting face covering is a first step in making ICE activity less secretive, more accountable, and more transparent.

I urge you to support HB 0155 and help ensure that Maryland’s law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.