

Testimony Concerning: SB0001 Public safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Prohibition on face coverings

Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing for January 22, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

I am writing in support of prohibiting face coverings on all law enforcement officers. I have been a citizen of Maryland for over 30 years. I speak as an individual and not as a member of any group. My position stems mainly from the fact that for many years now (perhaps too many), I and others have worked tirelessly to ensure that law enforcement, any and all law enforcement, can be trusted to do what their mission has been and should remain, to protect not only the citizens of our State and country, but to ensure the safety of all who live and work here. Without trust, I fear, we cannot believe that what they do is in our best interest. That is tearing away the very fabric of our society. When we can't trust those who were sent here to supposedly protect us, what are we then supposed to think or do? I say this not just for myself and my family, but for all of us, and just as much as anyone else the law enforcement officers themselves.

I can tell you that as an elderly while woman who has never broken a law in her life, I am sometimes intimidated by law enforcement officers, not necessarily because they are there, but all sorts of other things that make them seem intimidating even if they are not. The guns, the extra paraphernalia does nothing to reassure me because I am never really comfortable unless they speak to me in a kind, calm voice, and I can see the expression on their face. This is not a small matter. We need to know and be reassured that they will not succumb to some inner turmoil that might make them boil over. This is much more important than I think most believe.

Today, many are afraid when they shouldn't be. They have done nothing wrong, or at least, nothing so wrong as the rash behavior of some law enforcement officers would suggest. Please vote this through. It is, I believe, an important Bill, too important to ignore or push aside for later. Thank you.

Sincerely

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