

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable**

**SB1 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**January 22, 2026**

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

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

ICE agents are engendering fear in neighborhoods across our country and violating the due process rights and human rights of both American citizens and migrants. These agents are consistently acting with excessive force and engaging in acts of intimidation and provocation that directly cause the civil unrest they then use as a pretext for further acts of brutality while hiding their faces and badges from the public.

These civil rights violations undermine the rule of law and undermine public safety. ICE as it is currently constituted is more of an arm of state repression than a law enforcement agency.



We've all seen the images of brutality in the Twin Cities.

Having masked ICE agents terrorizing Marylanders while hiding their identities allows them to act without any concern for accountability. And what about criminals impersonating ICE agents? How are Maryland residents to know that the person claiming to be a law enforcement agent really is one when they don't show identification and are hiding behind a mask?

Please issue a favorable report on SB1.

Sincerely,

Charles Chapman

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