

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0001 - 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 Marian Marbury and I am a [resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

I never thought the day would come in the United States when masked men with no identification could stop people and demand identification, pull people out of their cars, throw people to the ground, and/or haul them away. I've seen pictures like this in other countries, ones where dictators rule and dissent is crushed, but never in the United States. I have always avoided the use of the word fascism as inaccurate and overwrought, but anonymity that enables the abuse of power is a hallmark of a fascist regime.

We have always been a country where the rule of law mattered, and a first step in that is accountability. Any law enforcement officer who cannot be identified, cannot be held accountable. We have seen what that means in the streets of LA, Portland, Minneapolis, Charlotte and Memphis. And we are increasingly seeing that here in Baltimore.

The time has come when everyone who loves our democracy must take a stand.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.