

Sonja Lane Fisher

January 20, 2026

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable SB 0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee meeting, January 22, 2026

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

My name is Sonja Fisher, and I am a resident of Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Policing in Maryland should be conducted in a transparent and ethical manner at all times. Policing is built on trust, and officers are bound to protect and serve. These ends are impossible to achieve when officers are masked, which is meant specifically to shield individual officers from accountability. Masked forces are by nature prone to violence and lawlessness. Therefore, police, in their normal course of duties, should be in recognizable uniforms with clear badging, and masks should be prohibited.

Crowd control, traffic stops, and patrolling, are normal duties and should be covered by the policy. However, in light of current events, a key aspect of this policy should be to prohibit masking in any circumstances in which state or local police are partnering with any federal entities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 0001, and if there is a way to speed up the approval and implementation process, I urge the committee to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sonja Fisher