

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 **Alison Grice** and I am a resident of **Wicomico County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

The only reason ICE agents or any other law enforcement would wear a face covering is if they needed to hide their identity. The only reason they would hide their identity is if they were not performing their duties legally and did not want to be caught doing so. No other law enforcement has been allowed (certainly not required) to wear a face covering, for the same reasons. Why would ICE agents be treated as an exception? The only explanation would be that the administration wants them to feel comfortable performing illegal activities without being caught. There is NO justification for this as being part of their “uniform” and face coverings should absolutely be prohibited.

It is important for public safety that ICE officers can be identified. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they watch someone being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer.

Our county sheriff values transparency and the community has benefited from this. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

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