

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

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Keily Pacheco, and I'm a 11th grade student at Baltimore City College and a member of Students Organizing a Multicultural Open Society. I support SB0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

This bill will protect the public by requiring law enforcement officers to have their faces visible while on duty, except in specific circumstances where face coverings are necessary for safety or health reasons. By prohibiting unnecessary face coverings (facemasks, skimasks, ect), this bill promotes transparency and accountability in policing, making it easier for community members to identify officers and build trust with law enforcement.

I believe that passing this bill is essential because it helps ensure that police officers are recognizable and accountable for their actions. As a student and community member, I feel safer knowing that officers cannot hide their identities during interactions with the public. This transparency is important for building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, especially for young people like me who want to feel safe and respected in our neighborhoods.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

Sincerely,

Keily Pacheco

Students Organizing a Multicultural Open Society (SOMOS)

District #215

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb site/members/district>

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