

SB 0001 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers -
Prohibition on Face Coverings

Position: Favorable

January 20, 2026

To: William Smith, Chair, Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Loreen Heinz; I'm from District 12A and am representing myself.

The United States is governed by the rule of law which depends on transparency and accountability. To maintain trust in the system, law enforcement officers should identify themselves fully (name, agency, and showing their faces). Face coverings result in loss of trust in officers at all levels; people will be less likely to seek help from or give information to officers whose identity is unknown. Also, impostors can take advantage of the lack of transparency and can terrorize harmless people.

For consistency, please vote in favor of this bill in order to extend Maryland masking prohibition to all law enforcement officers who operate in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.