



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Bill SB 1 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Judicial Proceedings Committee, January 22, 2026
SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **SB 1 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**. WDC believes it is critical that Maryland advance legislation that prohibits federal immigration officers and agents from wearing masks that conceal their identity and that requires them to show their identification and agency-identifying insignia. This legislation is necessary to protect the public, ensure accountability, and preserve the reputation and effectiveness of law enforcement at every level of government. It makes Maryland families safer.

[For the past year, we have been bombarded with images and videos of masked, armed federal law enforcement officers, terrorizing our nation's communities.](#) They are often dressed in plain clothes and travel in unmarked vehicles. They snatch people from streets, apartments, stores, and restaurants. They arrest and detain people – U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike -- based on nothing but skin color, as demonstrated [by ICE and Border Patrol stopping and detaining citizens of Native American tribes in Minneapolis](#) and [along the southern border](#). [ICE and Border Patrol aren't going after criminals; they are brutalizing anyone who they perceive to be in their way, including journalists and peaceful protesters.](#) Border Patrol even [tear gassed students on a high school campus](#). A [masked ICE officer shot and killed an unarmed woman](#) – a poet, wife, and mother -- in broad daylight, on a street near her child's school.

We have watched with alarm as ICE and Border Patrol have brutalized and terrorized the people of Los Angeles, Chicago, Memphis, and Minneapolis. Heavily armed, masked men without clear identification have inflicted violence and fear on Maryland residents, including [an incident near a Silver Spring middle school](#), [a confrontation against a Montgomery County Council member in Adelphi](#), and [targeted attacks in Silver Spring and Takoma Park](#).

A prohibition on federal immigration officers and agents from wearing face coverings that conceal their identity and a requirement that they show their identification and agency-identifying insignia protects the public safety by affording transparency and accountability. It encourages public trust and deters federal law enforcement from engaging in the violation of rights, including First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, and due process.

WDC applauds Senator Augustine and all co-sponsors for introducing legislation to protect Maryland residents from the reign of terror inflicted by ICE and Border Patrol.

We ask for your support for SB 1 and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair

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