

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0001 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Augustine and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Margaret Dineen, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 0001 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

As someone who has had a career in international development and the honor and privilege of living and working in numerous countries to support communities in building democratic institutions and practices, I know the importance of being able to trust that government agencies and actors will follow the rule of law, which includes transparency about who they are and who they represent/work for. This unfortunately is less and less the case in with certain law enforcement agents acting unlawfully in our communities. Prohibiting face coverings will help mitigate and reduce their ability to act anonymously.

I support **SB 0001** because having law enforcement officers with their faces covered creates fear in communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I am aware of neighbors and visitors in my community being sought and snatched off the street and from their homes in horrible ways by people whose identities we should be able to know for accountability. It these instances is un-American that people who work for the government and are paid with our tax dollars not be transparent and held to account for what they are doing and how they are doing.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 0001**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Dineen