

Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Jeremiah Raftovich** and I am a **resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

There should be absolutely no legal space for secret police or armed racist vigilantes in our state. ICE's insistence of allowing officers to go about unidentified and unidentifiable provides space for both.

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.

We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten our 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.