

Marina Broome-Eason
40874 Cooper Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
District 29A

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

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TO: Senator Augustine and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Marina Broome-Eason

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Marina Broome-Eason, I live in Leonardtown, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0001, Prohibition on Face Coverings.

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 0001, which establishes a model policy to prevent law enforcement officers from concealing their faces. Transparency is essential for public trust in policing. Allowing officers to hide their identity while on duty hampers accountability and undermines the relationship between police and the communities they serve. The passage of this law would make me feel a lot safer in my community. Seeing masked law enforcement in our state recently while going to and from work fills me with a sense of dread and distrust. Law enforcement should exist for the greater good of the community but we cannot trust in that greater good when officers are allowed to disguise their identity and in turn avoid accountability for their actions.

I urge you to support SB 0001 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.