

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Joanne Bates Crimmins, and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

This issue is so important for public safety. There have been instances where copycat masked individuals have committed crimes under the guise of being an “ICE agent”. This cannot stand. Not only does this make everyone in Maryland more vulnerable to senseless, unnecessary, and traumatic crime, it is just un-American. Frederick should be getting safer, not more dangerous.

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.

Our county sheriff values transparency and our community has benefited from this. We should not be allowing armed **individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten 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.

Joanne Bates Crimmins, resident of Frederick