

SB0001-FAV

Dr. Anna Rubin

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Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 1—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 Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Anna Rubin and I live in Columbia, Maryland - D13. I am writing in support of **SB0001**—Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings

I am the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation's Social Justice Committee. I am very concerned about ICE's illegal and violent abductions and detentions of my friends and neighbors. Their rogue behavior is abetted by masking and lack of identification, all things our police are not allowed to do. SB0001 requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a statewide model policy prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings while performing their duties, except when actively engaged in an undercover operation. This legislation promotes transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

My Jewish values insist that each human is made in the divine image and deserves respect. My American values insist on transparency and accountability.

I see the fear in the faces of community members. I know that many people are afraid to go out to their jobs, to take their kids to school, to go to medical appointments and shop for necessities. I know that many people are afraid to go to the police for legitimate crime reporting because of their fear of being picked up. This degrades public safety for us all. I want the police to be easily identified so I can trust them and know they are clearly accountable. Public trust of the police makes us all safer.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB0001**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Anna Rubin