

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable with Amendments
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 Committee,

Indivisible Baltimore County respectfully submits this testimony **in support of Senate Bill 1**, with the recommendation that the bill be amended to ensure **no exception permits law enforcement officers to wear face coverings while performing official duties, including during undercover operations**.

Indivisible Baltimore County is a progressive, grassroots civic engagement organization committed to peaceful action, accountable government, and policies that protect the rights and dignity of all people. Our support for SB 1 is grounded in the principle that **transparency and accountability are essential to public safety and community trust**.

SB 1 strengthens that trust by prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings while on duty. Masking by law enforcement can create fear, confusion, and a perception of unaccountability—particularly in communities that have experienced disproportionate enforcement. The public has a right to know when they are interacting with law enforcement, and officers exercising state authority should be clearly identifiable at all times.

We are especially concerned that an exception for “undercover operations,” if retained, could be interpreted broadly and used to justify masking during immigration enforcement activities, including joint operations involving federal immigration authorities such as ICE. Such an exception would undermine the bill’s purpose and weaken public confidence.

For these reasons, Indivisible Baltimore County supports **SB 1 with amendment** and urges a **favorable report as amended**.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership.

Jennifer Blalock

Steering Committee representative for Indivisible Baltimore County