



Testimony on Senate Bill 1 – Favorable
SB 1-Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Prohibitions on Face Coverings
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

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

Indivisible Howard County offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 1-Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers -Prohibitions on Face Coverings**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 1,400 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. Our Immigration Action Team collaborates with other immigrant support groups statewide. In 2025 we have distributed more than 7,700 Know Your Rights cards to community members, hosted Know Your Rights trainings, established a Rapid Response Team Network, and lobbied for immigrant rights in Annapolis.

SB1- Public Safety-Law-Enforcement Officers-Prohibitions on Face Covering will require **all** law enforcement officers working in Maryland to keep their faces uncovered and to clearly identify their name and specific provide their name and except for certain circumstances. These requirements are already mandated in Maryland and in many other states. There are sound reasons for these laws. Transparency increases community collaboration, holds officers accountable, and helps deescalate potential violence. These laws should apply to ICE agents as well as local law enforcement.

Masking sows fear and mistrust in the community. It allows criminals and other bad actors to impersonal ICE agents—three such cases have been reported in Maryland. This makes legitimate law enforcement more difficult. It undermines the rule of law and terrorizes citizens and immigrants alike. ICE agents should not be above the law. Our communities should not live in fear.

Indivisible Howard County urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB 1.**