

Testimony for [SB0001](#)

[SB0001](#) – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Bill Sponsor: Senators Augustine

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Submitting: Liz Feighner

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Liz Feighner and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland in District 13. I am writing in **support of SB0001 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

I have been horrified by the illegal and unconstitutional actions by ICE and other federal agents. Their thuggish behavior includes unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling and is detrimental to the fabric of our society and democracy. As a granddaughter of immigrants, I realize that my family could be hunted down like dogs had they immigrated to the states in later years than when they did in the early 1900's.

I support **SB0001** because we shouldn't have "secret police" terrorizing our communities. Hiding their identity is a danger to all of us as we have no idea who is stopping us and asking for personal identification. Masking makes legitimate law enforcement more difficult when people cannot distinguish between legitimate enforcement and criminal activity.

There are reports of incidents of impersonation of federal, state, and local law enforcement that are on the rise around the country and here in MD. It creates unbelievable fear in our communities by agents hiding their identity if we can't distinguish between legitimate police and criminals pretending to be police. People are less likely to cooperate therefore escalating their encounter with the "secret police".

This legislation promotes transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Feighner

Howard County, MD

District 13