

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 Anders Julin, and I am a resident of Catonsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

I am in support of the bill for two main reasons: The first is that if officers are allowed to use face coverings, then it degrades the connection a community has with its law enforcement. A safe neighborhood, and state as a whole, relies on the mutual trust between law enforcement and the citizens they are sworn to protect. These officers are usually members of the community they serve, and sometimes respected leaders who people look up to. If they are allowed to cover their faces while carrying out enforcement activities, then that leader becomes just another faceless cog in a uniform. Human empathy and understanding comes from being able to effectively see and communicate with the other person, and facial expression is a large part of that. If the community does not feel a connection with the people in uniforms carrying guns around them, it leads to a more disjointed and uneasy existence. Confrontations immediately become more hostile, deescalation becomes harder, and it provides no benefits.

The second reason is that allowing officers to conceal their faces adds a barrier to necessary accountability. Officers hold citizens accountable by enforcing the laws when they are broken, and citizens should be able to hold officers accountable when their actions clearly violate the responsibility they hold as protectors. If officers are allowed to hide their identities, even just partially by covering their faces, it is an indicator they are afraid of being held accountable. It signals to the community they know what they are doing, or could potentially do, is something frowned upon or just flat out wrong. This has been especially obvious with ICE action across the country as they hide behind their masks to carry out enforcement often well outside their authority or even allowable by state and federal law. I don't put the safety of me, my family, and my community in the hands of masked thugs. I put that safety in the hands of law enforcement officers who can be praised for their heroics, and have to answer for their wrongs.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Anders Julin