

**SB # 0001**

**Miner L. Brown**

**Favorable**

**Title: Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee: Senator William C. Smith, Jr.**

**Sponsored by: Senators Augustine, Love, Beidle, Brooks, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hettleman, Kagan, King, Kramer, Lam, Lewis, Young, Muse, Rosapepe, Smith, Sydnor, and Zucker**

This testimony is written in strong support of Senate Bill #0001, Public Safety Law Enforcement Officers- Prohibition-on Face Coverings. My name is Miner I. (Moe) Brown, a 37-year resident of MD & District 11B. I am a parent, grandparent, greatgrandparent, Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver Awardee, 1<sup>st</sup> Life Time Achievement Awardee from Irvine Nature Center, a Red Hat at Habitat for Humanity in Baltimore (9 ½ yrs.), and an original CASA Ally.

This bill is co-sponsored by 18 Senators (indicative of its overwhelming urgency to become law as quickly as possible) cross filed in the House with 31 Sponsors. **SERIOUS CONCERN: How can anyone even try to identify who are attacking our neighbors** at work, the Home Depot parking lot, taking their children to school, food shopping, walking down the street, or forcefully entering their residence without a legal warrant? When passed, this new law will legally “prohibit a certain law enforcement officer from wearing a certain face covering while in the performance of duty in the State, except when actively engaged in an undercover operation.” Excellent!

**Our racially diverse immigrant friends and neighbors and even American citizens are illegally and unconstitutionally under attack.** They are initially met by **masked** unidentified men and women using unnecessary force who come at them, in numbers, from unmarked vans and black cars. They are being inhumanely treated, arrested, detained, immediately separated from family, deported and even killed with no regard for them as human-beings. This cannot continue to be allowed! A model enforceable law “prohibiting the use of a face covering in the performance of duty” will help provide some safety for our friends and neighbors not currently available. It also is solid evidence of the values and support we have for all our Maryland residents.