

SUPPORT
Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Senate Bill 1

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
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Paul Lemle
President

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 1, which requires the development of a model policy prohibiting the use of face coverings by any law enforcement officer operating in the state of Maryland.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 1 is part of a number of legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. There has been a dangerous escalation of authoritarian tactics that threaten safety, civil liberties, and the democratic values across the country. The use of masked and unmarked law enforcement agents has increased in the last 12 months as part of the authoritarian actions of the Trump Administration to occupy American cities and advance unjust law enforcement actions with little regard for due process and equal protection. Communities are being traumatized, requiring states like Maryland to resist assaults on our civil liberties through legislative action such as this bill.

Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in school, and also to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe the prohibition of masked law enforcement actions is part of creating safer communities and ultimately better learning and living conditions for our students.

MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 1.