



Testimony on Senate Bill 001 – Favorable

SB 001 - 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,

Arnolia UMC offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**.

We are a United Methodist congregation with approximately 100 active members in Parkville, MD whose faith moves us to advocate for and with immigrant families. We work with immigrant families in our congregation and community to embody a way of being in the world rooted in the inherent value, worth, and dignity of all people.

It is important for public safety that ICE officers can be identified. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they watch someone being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. There's no way to know if someone is simply impersonating an ICE officer. Our county sheriff values transparency and the community has benefited from this. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

Our Immigrant family and community members are already moving around in fear and self-selecting to avoid many public events which limits their participation in our worshiping community and our access to provide them care and resources. Doing our best to reduce the fear of masked individuals armed to intimidate and frighten is the least we can do to help ease the tension.

For these reasons, Arnolia UMC urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 001**.