

Date of Hearing: January 20, 2026

Julie Robin Solomon

Baltimore, MD 21231

Your City/Town, State Zip

TESTIMONY ON SB# SB1 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Full Bill Name: Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers--Prohibition on Face Coverings

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Julie Robin Solomon

My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#1 Public Safety--Law Enforcement Officers--Prohibition on Face Coverings

I have been a city resident of Butcher's Hill for 35 years and work as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. Because of my personal involvement with the African-American community--I have adopted black children--I have witnessed up close and personal the ways that the Baltimore City Police Department has abused and harassed black people in our city. Lately I have witnessed abuse by ICE of brown people and immigrants in Baltimore. The use of face coverings by ICE is a violation of our civil and legal culture. Arresting police and agents of the federal government that arrest and detain should be unmasked. If they are executing the law, they should be unmasked. They are not investigators or undercover agents. They are public officials who should operate with transparency. This is a tradition within American police and other law enforcement. Its how we know the good guys from the bad guys. The only reason for masking is to protect their illegal actions--if any.

I thank the members of this committee for their hard work in protecting citizens of Maryland against crime and illegality. I believe that masked Ice and Border Patrol Agents in our state helps supports crime and illegality on the part of these agents and perhaps others. I urge the members of this committee to support this bill to protect Marylanders from the heinous actions of masked men.