

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB0155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Judiciary Committee

February, 25, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Montgomery and I am writing **in support of HB0155/SB0001** - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

While I am presently a stay at home parent, when I worked, I did not wear a mask to hide my identity. If a colleague, client, student, or parent took issue with my actions, they would be able to identify who I was, utilizing my name, badge, and verifiable licensing number, issued by the state licensing board for my profession. Had I engaged in unethical, unprofessional, or unlawful conduct, a complaint could be issued to my licensing board and processes and procedures for holding me accountable for my actions would occur. If ever I wore a mask, it was when the child or client I was interacting with was medically fragile or we were undergoing a worldwide infectious pandemic and not wearing a mask would place the other person's health at risk. Under those circumstance, the masking was for health safety, I wore a name tag, and I was still identifiable and accountable to the individuals I was working with and serving. When you are confident that your actions are not harmful and your behavior towards fellow human beings is not deplorable, you know that there is no reason to hide behind a mask.

You know who does hide behind masks? Bank robbers, rapists, and other criminals who have the intent of escaping punishment for their actions. ICE isn't made safer by wearing masks. They are actually creating less safe conditions because the public isn't able to differentiate federal law enforcement from any other criminal who might don a mask.

That's why 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 an ICE officer or if they are impersonating an ICE officer.

Our local law enforcement officers are easily identifiable. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

I urge you to **vote in favor of HB155** - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jean Montgomery.