

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**Judiciary Committee**

**19FEB26**

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Jen Makar and I am writing in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

When I conduct business, I do not wear a mask to hide my identity. If I engage with a neighbor, I do not wear a mask. In nearly all professional settings and especially those that involve the law and public interest, hiding identities not only is inappropriate but puts individuals at risk. Generally when you are acting in accordance with your duties or proud of the work you conduct, you know that there is no reason to hide behind a mask. ICE isn't made safer by wearing masks and the public they are meant to serve certainly are not made safer either. ICE using face coverings is actually creating less safe conditions because the public isn't able to differentiate federal law enforcement from a general criminal or someone with intent to do harm, 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.