

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1415- Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification

Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2026

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

My name is Dr. Marcia Coe and I am a resident of St. Mary's County and I am writing in support of HB1415 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification.

ICE agents are not made safer by not wearing identification. They are actually creating less safe conditions because the public isn't able to differentiate federal law enforcement from any visibly armed, unidentified person.

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 an unmarked group. It's impossible to determine if someone is an ICE officer or if they are impersonating an ICE officer.

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

I urge you to vote in favor of HB1415 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Identification for transparency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marcia Coe, MD

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