

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Judiciary Committee
February 24, 2026

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

My name is Catherine Morrison, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB0155, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

Public safety depends on the ability to clearly identify law enforcement officers. When officers wear masks, it becomes impossible for the public to distinguish between legitimate law enforcement activity and criminal behavior. This lack of transparency creates dangerous conditions; community members may feel compelled to intervene in an incident if they cannot verify that those involved are officers rather than individuals intent on harm.

The use of masks by ICE officers or any law enforcement agency fosters fear and distrust within the community. While I recognize concerns regarding personal privacy and "doxing," this is a risk shared by many public-facing roles, including elected officials. Accountability requires that those granted the authority to enforce the law do so without hiding their identities.

Our local law enforcement officers are easily identifiable, and federal agencies should be held to similar standards of transparency. We must not allow armed individuals to operate with masks, which only serves to intimidate the communities they serve.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB0155 to ensure greater transparency and safety for all.

Catherine Morrison