

Dear **Members of the Judiciary Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 45**. **I am testifying in support of SB001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

In the State of Maryland, we expect the law enforcement officers who serve our communities to openly identify themselves as such when doing their jobs.

SB1 would require the creation of a model masking policy, banning the routine use of full face masks to conceal the identity of law enforcement officers, and require local and state law enforcement agencies to adopt that policy. Although this bill has been amended and no longer serves its original purpose of attempting to reign in ICE's use of masked officers, it is still valuable because it codifies our longstanding expectation that law enforcement agents in our state will openly identify themselves as such. Without codification of our expectations, there is a concern that other law enforcement agencies may choose to follow the federal government's example of fielding masked officers.

Officers would still be permitted to wear necessary tactical and safety equipment, and full face masks could be authorized under specific, defined circumstances. But use of this policy would reinforce a clear distinction between officers conducting enforcement actions, and criminals hiding their faces to masquerade as law enforcement, making everyone safer. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brytani Fraser

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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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