

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

Committee: Judiciary

2/20/2026

Dear Honorable Chair, Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett., Vice Chair, Delegate Debra Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sara D. Ryan, and I am writing in support of HB155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

It is of crucial importance to 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.

I am a senior citizen. I would be terrified if an unidentified, masked individual approached my car and asked for my identification or told me to get out of the car. We teach our children to ask to see a police officer's badge when we teach them how to be safe from strangers. Current practices contradict basic safety rules.

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.