

Mary Beck
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District 44B

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0155, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers -
Prohibition on Face Coverings

2/24/2026

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Mary Beck

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Mary Beck, I live in Halethorpe, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0155, Prohibition on Face Coverings, and to change the effective date of this law to July - or sooner, whenever possible.

Allowing any kind of law enforcement officer to conceal their identity makes me feel deeply unsafe. Officers should always be able to - and be required to - prove their identity and status as an officer of the law when requested by another individual. This is crucial for holding officers accountable for unlawful or otherwise unsafe behavior. Additionally, identifying an officer is crucial for me as a woman to feel safe from someone who may be falsely claiming to be an officer. I ask, "who watches the watchmen" - and how can we watch them if they can cover their faces? No one is above the law.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting masked law enforcement is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support HB 0155 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.