

**Testimony on House Bill HB155 – Favorable
Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Judiciary Committee**

February 20, 2026

As a resident of Baltimore, I have seen the effort it takes to build and re-build community trust in law enforcement.

It is imperative that hard-won trust be continued and improved. Allowing face coverings for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers decreases trust in law enforcement since community members do not know who they are and cannot identify them in cases of misconduct or abuse by the officers (or if indeed they are members of ICE).

It is important for 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.

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 - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elaine Arndt
District 46 Constituent