

From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
101 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Debra Davis
Judiciary Committee
101 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

I write in support of *House Bill 155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings*.

This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that state and local officers act in ways that foster trust and public safety, rather than instilling fear. It helps ensure that communities can see and identify the officers who are protecting them. Law enforcement should be visible and accountable to the people they serve, so that residents feel safe calling for help, reporting crimes, and seeking assistance without fear or confusion.

In Maryland, like across the nation, we have seen the very real consequences of unregulated and aggressive ICE actions. The deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti—two U.S. citizens fatally shot by federal immigration officers in Minnesota—have shaken families, traumatized communities, and shown how aggressive enforcement can spiral into needless violence and loss of life. These events remind us powerfully of what happens when law enforcement operates without enough visibility, oversight, or accountability.

I also want to be absolutely clear: I value and support the hard work our Maryland state and local law enforcement officers do every day. Maryland police serve with integrity, courage, and commitment to keeping our neighborhoods safe. They deserve clear policies that help them build trust with all residents, tools that allow them to engage with the public without unnecessary fear or confusion, and standards that reflect our values of transparency and accountability. When I served as Congressman of Maryland's 6th District, I had the privilege of working closely with our law enforcement officers and know firsthand that we share the same goal: strong, safe communities built on trust between officers and the public.

This legislation does not weaken law enforcement—it supports officers. Safety and trust are stronger when the public can clearly see who is responsible for enforcing the law. This bill helps create a path where law enforcement and community trust go hand in hand, and where policy reflects our shared commitment to justice, dignity, and respect for every Maryland resident.

For these reasons, I strongly urge your support of *House Bill 155*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Trone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Trone
Former Member of Congress