



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony HB1415 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Identification Favorable Report

To: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of MD
Date: March 10, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of **HB 1415 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers – Identification** that will require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to adopt a policy requiring all law enforcement officers to wear identification, except in certain circumstances.

I encourage the Committee to deliver a favorable report on **HB 1415**.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security in July 2025 issued an operational memorandum to its subordinate agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), stipulating that its agents must identify themselves and state the reason for an arrest as soon as practical. The policy is essentially a sieve—a multitude of holes. Forgetting about the face coverings, many ICE agents do not have badges or identification clearly visible, other than a misleading tag on the back of their paramilitary uniforms labeled “Police” followed underneath with “ICE.”

Some fifty-five years ago, when I worked for Mayor John Lindsay’s Urban Action Task Force, I had the opportunity to work with New York’s Finest, the New York Police Department (NYPD). Every patrol officer proudly wore their shield with their badge number clearly displayed. **They still do so**. For these officers, it is not only pride, but respect for the people they serve and protect, and the display enforces transparency and accountability. We have seen, too frequently in recent months, ICE agents flaunting their stated policies using the specious argument of “doxing.” Perhaps if ICE agents clearly wore identification, were transparent and respectful of the Constitution and the communities they serve, they wouldn’t have to worry about “doxing.”

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.twitter.com/uulmmd



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared voices for liberal religious values in Maryland

See the images below.



(Note the badge number on the cap and shield and the name tag)

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland, calls me to respect the dignity and worth of every human being, regardless of their immigration status. No one deserves to be intimidated or frightened by the very people who are sworn to protect them and to uphold the law. Clear identification enables transparency and accountability, foundational elements of our Constitutional Rights and the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

I encourage the Committee to deliver a favorable report on HB 1415.

Thank you.

Sources:

Image, <https://davisvanguard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ICE-Mask-2.webp>

Image: [NYPD Officer Uniform - Search Images](#)

[Do ICE Agents Have to Identify Themselves? - LegalClarity](#),
<https://legalclarity.org/do-ice-agents-have-to-identify-themselves/>

[ICE Badge Visibility Requirements 2026 | Field Office Compliance Guide](#),
<https://owlbadges.com/blog/ice-badge-visibility-requirements-2026-compliance-guide/>

[Reps. Goldman, Menendez Press DHS to Enforce Policy Requiring ICE Officers to Identify Themselves During Arrests | Congressman Daniel Goldman](#),
<https://goldman.house.gov/media/press-releases/ reps-goldman-menendez-press-dhs-enforce-policy-requiring-ice-officers-identify>

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