

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2026

Julie Robin Solomon

Baltimore, MD 21231

TESTIMONY ON HB#0155- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Full Bill Name: Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers--Prohibition on Face Coverings

TO: Chair Del. Sandy Bartlett; Vice Chair, Del Debra Davis; and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Julie Robin Solomon

My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0155 Public Safety--Law Enforcement Officers--Prohibition on Face Coverings

I have been a city resident of Butcher's Hill for 35 years and work as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. Because of my personal involvement with the African-American community--I have adopted black children--I have witnessed up close and personal the ways that the Baltimore City Police Department has abused and harrassed black people in our city. Lately I have witnessed abuse by ICE of brown people and immigrants in Baltimore. The use of face coverings by ICE is a violation of our civil and legal culture. Arresting police and agents of the federal government that arrest and detain should be unmasked. If they are executing the law, they should be unmasked. They are not investigators or undercover agents. They are public officials who should operate with transparency. This is a tradition within American police and other law enforcement. Its how we know the good guys from the bad guys. The only reason for masking is to protect their illegal actions--if any.

I thank the members of this committe for their hard work in protecting citizens of Maryland against crime and illegality. I believe that masked Ice and Border Patrol Agents in our state supports crime and illegality on the part of these agents and perhaps others. I urge the members of this committee o support HB#1055 to protect Marylanders from the heinous actions of masked men.