



**Testimony on House Bill 155 – Favorable
HB155-Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Prohibitions on Face Coverings
House Judiciary Committee
February 23, 2026**

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

Indivisible Howard County offers favorable testimony in support of **HB155-Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers -Prohibitions on Face Coverings**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

HB155- Public Safety-Law-Enforcement Officers-Prohibitions on Face Covering will require **all** law enforcement officers working in Maryland to keep their faces uncovered except for certain circumstances. Maryland and many other states already require law enforcement officers to keep their faces uncovered and to identify their name and agency. There are sound reasons for these laws. Transparency increases community collaboration with law enforcement, holds officers accountable, and helps deescalate potential violence. These laws should apply to ICE agents as well as local law enforcement.

Masking sows fear and mistrust in the community. It allows criminals and other bad actors to impersonate ICE agents—three such cases have been reported in Maryland. This makes legitimate law enforcement more difficult. It undermines the rule of law and terrorizes citizens and immigrants alike. ICE agents should not be above the law. Our communities should not live in fear.

Indivisible Howard County urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB155**.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of Indivisible HoCoMD
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

