



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**HB 0155 Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**  
**Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2026**  
**SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **HB 0155 Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**. WDC believes it is critical that Maryland advance legislation that prohibits federal immigration officers and agents from wearing masks that conceal their identity and that requires them to show their identification and agency-identifying insignia. This legislation is necessary to protect the public, ensure accountability, and preserve the reputation and effectiveness of law enforcement at every level of government. It makes Maryland families safer.

[Masked ICE officers and Border Patrol agents are assaulting U.S. communities with sweeping and chaotic military-style actions. For the past year, we have been bombarded with images and videos of masked, armed federal law enforcement officers, terrorizing our nation's communities.](#) They are often dressed in plain clothes and travel in unmarked vehicles. [They snatch people from streets, apartments, stores, and restaurants.](#) They arrest and detain people – U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike -- based on skin color, as demonstrated by ICE and Border Patrol [stopping and detaining citizens of Native American tribes in Minneapolis and along the southern border.](#) [ICE and Border Patrol aren't going after criminals; they are brutalizing anyone who they perceive to be in their way, including journalists and peaceful protesters,](#) perhaps to meet their [daily quotas](#). They assault unarmed people, firing tear gas and sound grenades in American streets. In January, masked ICE officers shot and killed Renee Good in broad daylight, and two experienced Border Patrol agents fatally shot Alex Pretti, a nurse with the Veterans Administration, [both of which the Administration swiftly defended.](#)

Here in Maryland, heavily armed, masked men without clear identification have inflicted violence and fear on state residents, including [an incident near a Silver Spring middle school](#), [a confrontation against a Montgomery County Council member in Adelphi](#), and [targeted attacks in Silver Spring and Takoma Park](#). MoCo IRC reports that it is providing support to 62 families of the kidnapped, which is up from 48 families two weeks ago.

A prohibition on federal immigration officers and agents from wearing face coverings that conceal their identity and a requirement that they show their identification and agency-identifying insignia protects the public safety by affording transparency and accountability. It encourages public trust and deters federal law enforcement from engaging in the violation of rights, including First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, and due process.

WDC applauds the sponsors for introducing legislation to protect Maryland residents from the reign of terror inflicted by ICE and Border Patrol. We ask for your support for **HB 0155 Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings** and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper  
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy Chair