



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0115:**

**Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**DATE:** February 20, 2026

**FROM:** Out for Justice

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee

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

Out for Justice is a grassroots non profit formed by formerly incarcerated individuals that organizes and equips justice-impaired people to reform harmful criminal legal policies and remove barriers to successful reentry. **We submit this testimony on behalf of the organization in support of House Bill 155.**

House Bill 155 strengthens transparency and accountability in law enforcement by prohibiting the use of face coverings that conceal an officer's identity while on duty, with clearly defined exceptions. For communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system, the ability to identify the officers exercising state power is essential to public trust, effective oversight, and constitutional policing.

Additionally, the bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a model policy and mandates that law enforcement agencies adopt consistent standards affirming their commitment to transparency, accountability, and public trust. By limiting the use of face coverings to specific and narrowly tailored safety circumstances, the legislation balances legitimate officer safety concerns with the public's right to visible and accountable policing.

As an organization that amplifies the voices of individuals directly impacted by the criminal legal system and advocates for policies that reduce harm and increase community safety, Out for Justice believes this bill advances both equity and public confidence in law enforcement.

For these reasons, **Out for Justice urges a favorable report on House Bill 155.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.