

## **Testimony on House Bill 155 – Favorable**

### **HB155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings Judiciary Committee**

**February 20, 2026**

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

My name is Jean Cavanaugh and I am writing in support of HB 155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

It is unfathomable to me that federal employees from ICE and CBP, people whose salary I pay and whose behavior I expect to be legal, honorable and transparent, have been allowed to wear masks while perpetrating the worst violence against individuals in these United States.

I work at the polls every election. I do not wear a mask. The public I serve expects they can hold me accountable for any wrongdoing because I am identifiable. Many say working the polls is a dangerous job now. But because I know my behavior and actions will be beyond reproach, I am not afraid to show my face and wear ID.

With the proliferation of guns and private gun ownership in this country combined with this Administration's approval and unleashing of some of the more reprehensible people in our society, it is no wonder people are afraid when pulled over and/or attacked by heavily armed masked men/women who have no identification. It is terrifying to watch loved ones and neighbors being carried off by these unknown assailants - ICE and CBP officers.

I agree with Governor Moore when he says that Maryland cannot condone or be complicit with a federal armed force that doesn't uphold itself to the same human and constitutional rights and transparency we have here in Maryland.

Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Masked, armed violent people roaming our communities have proven to be deadly to innocent civilians. Let's stop it here in Maryland.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings for transparency and safety.

Jean Cavanaugh

Frederick, MD