

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

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

February 24, 2026

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

My name is Kathy Shulman, and I am writing **in support of SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

I am writing as a resident of Baltimore City (District 43) and as a volunteer leader of Indivisible Baltimore.

Trust is the most effective ingredient in creating effective local, state, and federal law enforcement. When members of the community and law enforcement know each other and form trust, this makes our communities safer. When you know a member of law enforcement and see that they care about your community, law enforcement officials are seen as assets in their community.

When anyone patrolling community streets is shielded by a mask, trust is lost. When ICE or any law enforcement agents are wearing masks, they are creating less safe conditions because no ongoing relationships are formed and trust is not created.

That's why it is important for public safety that ICE officers can be identified. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Furthermore, community members are more likely to intervene if they watch someone being attacked or kidnapped by a masked, unmarked group. There's no way to know if someone is an ICE officer or if they are impersonating an ICE officer.

Our local law enforcement officers are easily identifiable. We should not be allowing armed individuals with masks to intimidate and frighten communities with impunity.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Shulman, Co-Lead, Immigration Rights Working Group of Indivisible Baltimore
221 Stony Run Lane, Apt. G1, Baltimore, MD 21210; kathyshulman@proton.me

Indivisible Baltimore is a unified coalition of diverse Baltimore residents who aim to connect, build, and support our community to uphold democracy, justice, and human dignity. We hold local, state and national leaders accountable, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening democratic participation. Through empathy, education, and nonviolent resistance, we build bridges across political and social divides—because real change happens when we listen, learn, and act together. To date, we represent more than 2300 Baltimore City residents.