

HB0349_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0349- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0349, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

This bill extends requirements for a law enforcement agency of a county...stating they shall require the use of body-worn cameras, subject to the policy on the use of body-worn cameras developed by the law enforcement agency, by each SWORN law enforcement officer, REGARDLESS OF RANK, employed by the law enforcement agency [who regularly interacts with members of the public as part of the law enforcement officer's official duties] WHILE THE OFFICER IS IN UNIFORM, IN PUBLIC, AND CONDUCTING LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED DUTIES.

This bill has become necessary as part of Maryland's forceful response to the illegal and constitutional actions of DHS and ICE. As reported by U.S. Senators Duckworth and Durbin:

*Duckworth, Durbin Demand ICE and CBP Enforce Body Camera Requirements in Compliance with Federal Order - The Senators' demand follows reports of ICE releasing misleading accounts of recent immigration enforcement operations in Chicagoland*¹

“Regular use of BWCs provides an extra layer of safety for both law enforcement officers and the public they serve and helps to increase trust between the two... and, ultimately, is in the best interest of agents, officials and individuals involved in use of force incidents.”

Regular use of BWCs provides an extra layer of safety for both law enforcement officers and the public they serve and helps to increase trust between the two.... incidents underscore the importance of BWC footage, which plays a vital role in promoting responsible law enforcement tactics and verifying DHS accounts against facts on the ground and, ultimately, is in the best interest of agents, officials and individuals involved in use of force incidents.

¹ <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/news/press-releases/duckworth-durbin-demand-ice-and-cbp-enforce-body-camera-requirements-in-compliance-with-federal-order#:~:text=of%20the%20incident.-,Regular%20use%20of%20BWCs%20provides%20an%20extra%20layer%20of%20safety,in%20use%20of%20force%20in,cidents.>

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The failure of ICE agents to activate body-worn cameras (BWCs) creates significant risks, including reduced accountability for alleged civil rights violations, unverified use-of-force incidents, and erosion of public trust. Without footage, investigating misconduct becomes difficult, and oversight of sensitive operations like home raids is diminished.²

Maryland can and should combat this disregard of the use of these body-worn cameras by passing this bill altering certain provisions of law to require a certain law enforcement agency to require the use of body-worn cameras, subject to a certain policy, by each sworn law enforcement officer, regardless of rank, employed by the law enforcement agency while the officer is in uniform, in public, and conducting law enforcement related duties.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0349.

² Google AI Search “dangers from ICE not having activated body worn cameras”