

HB1415_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/10/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON HB#1415 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#1415, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification

This bill is submitted in response to agents of the Federal Government law enforcement failing to follow the law in identifying themselves. As documented by the Center for American Progress *Masked and Unidentifiable: The Risks of Federal Law Enforcement Operating Without Identification - Since taking office, the Trump administration has undermined public safety and law enforcement accountability by supporting the dangerous practice of obscuring the identity of ICE and other federal officers.*¹

In recent months, federal U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal law enforcement officers—roaming the streets in plainclothes, masked, and sometimes armed—have stoked fear in communities nationwide. These federal agents have been seen [swinging batons](#), [smashing car windows](#), [using explosives](#) to blow the door off of a home with children inside, [emerging from unmarked vehicles](#) with weapons drawn, [shooting into a family vehicle](#), and [grabbing people off of the street](#) and [putting them into unmarked vehicles](#). In cities such as Los Angeles, [Minneapolis](#), [Phoenix](#), and Miami, officers donning face coverings without an [agency designation](#) and driving unmarked vehicles have conducted immigration enforcement actions at [schools](#), [courthouses](#), [religious institutions](#), and [work sites](#). Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., hundreds of officers from [nearly 20 federal agencies](#), D.C. National Guard troops, and National Guard troops from [six other states](#) have been [deployed to the streets](#), with masked U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents manning [checkpoints](#) for drivers. This is the new, frightening image of U.S. immigration enforcement under President Donald Trump: violence, covered faces, and unknown agency affiliations. These images signal a troubling move “away from [democratic controls](#),” where officers are visible and accountable to the communities they serve, and toward [militarization](#) that serves to instill fear and stifle dissent.

¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/masked-and-unidentifiable-the-risks-of-federal-law-enforcement-operating-without-identification/#:~:text=Legal%20requirements%20related%20to%20the,directly%2C%20potentially%20violating%20this%20provision.>

HB1415_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

The bill will say that these unconstitutional and illegal dangerous practices will not be tolerated in Maryland. The bill will require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a certain model policy requiring the use of worn identification by a law enforcement officer in the course of duty; require a law enforcement agency to adopt a policy consistent with the model policy developed by the Commission; require a certain law enforcement officer to wear identification while in the performance of duty in the State, with a certain exception; etc

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1415.