

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

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

Judiciary Committee

2/20/2026

Dear Honorable Chair Williams, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Winder and I am writing in support of HB0155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

When I report into work, I do not wear a mask to hide my identity. If a colleague or customer I interact with has any issues with my actions, they will be able to clearly identify who I am. When you are confident that your actions are not harmful and your behavior towards fellow human beings is not deplorable, you know that there is no reason to hide behind a mask.

Criminals, such as bank robbers, who have the intent of escaping punishment for their actions are the ones who hide behind masks. ICE isn't made safer by wearing masks, but are actually creating decreased safe conditions because the public isn't able to differentiate federal law enforcement from any other criminal who might don a mask.

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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Jessica Winder