



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair
and Members of the Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members,

Re: **HB0155** – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings -- **UNFAVORABLE**

The 1,300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women have serious concerns about and objections to HB0155, that will prohibit the wearing of face coverings by law enforcement officers, including federal law enforcement officers, when performing their official duties. HB0155 makes the wearing of a face covering by a law enforcement officer a criminal offense punishable with two years of imprisonment and a fine of \$2,000.

These provisions are excessive, especially when the same prohibitions have not been applied to the individuals law enforcement professionals will be interacting with -- criminals, increasingly more violent paid agitators and protestors who intentionally harass and obstruct, and others whose sole purpose is to interfere with enforcement of local, state, and federal law.

Law enforcement officers don't make the laws. They swear an oath to uphold the Maryland Constitution, the Constitution of the United States, and all laws enacted by the Maryland General Assembly. Those who object to the enforcement of those laws should be working to change the laws rather than obstructing enforcement.

Many of the violent confrontations and recent unfortunate deaths in Minnesota could have been avoided if reasonable rules had been implemented to address the violent confrontations by the protesters and, more importantly, if existing laws had been enforced (obstructing traffic flow, interfering with law enforcement officers, etc.).

HB0155 derisively dismisses concerns for the safety of law enforcement officers and their families with the provision "that generalized and undifferentiated fear and apprehension about law enforcement officer safety is not sufficient to justify the use of face coverings." Angry protestors outside your home or your child's school is a valid concern and should not be trivialized as "undifferentiated fear and apprehension".

HB0155 was filed as the result of similar "generalized and undifferentiated fear and apprehension". If that is not sufficient rationale for law enforcement officers, how can it be sufficient for violent criminals, agitators, and protesters?

Please give **HB0155** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

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