

**Testimony on House Bill 1415-Favorable**  
**Public Safety-Law Enforcement Officers-Identification**  
**Judiciary Committee support**

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

My name is Karen Murphy-Keddell. I am a resident of Howard County, MD and I am writing in support of HB1415. As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith calls me to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to act with justice in human relations. Supporting this bill aligns with those values by protecting human rights and fostering trust in our communities.

I support HB1415 because this legislation requires the Maryland Police Training and Standard Committee to develop a model policy that directs law enforcement officers that operate in Maryland to wear clear identification while on duty (including badge number, name and department affiliation). The bill would also require law enforcement agencies to create standards to establish when officers must display identification in performance of their duties.

I believe requiring any law enforcement officer to clearly identify their names in addition to keeping their faces uncovered creates transparency, will hold ICE agents accountable and hopefully help deescalate potential violence. It would mean that ICE agents would not be above the law and would be held to the same standards as our Maryland law enforcement officers. It would also decrease the potential for criminals and bad actors to impersonate ICE agents-three such cases have been reported in Maryland.

When law enforcement officers are allowed to mask and/or not clearly identify themselves, it creates fear and mistrust in the community. It undermines the rule of law, terrorizes immigrants and citizens alike and make legitimate law enforcement that much more difficult. Ultimately, it means that communities are less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1415. This law will help Maryland law enforcement officers continue to do their job of keeping our communities safe and restoring trust and fairness in our communities. It will also help prevent what's happening in other states from happening in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Karen Murphy-Keddell

