

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB1415 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification
Judiciary Committee
March 10, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, Sponsoring Delegate Moreno, & Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Montgomery and I am writing in **support of HB1415** - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification. It requires the Maryland Police Training and Standard Commission to develop a model policy that directs law enforcement officers that operate in Maryland to wear clear identification including badge number, name, and department affiliation and establish standards for displaying identification in the performance of their duties.

While I am presently a stay at home parent, when I worked, I did not wear a mask to hide my identity, nor did I obscure my identification from the public. If a colleague, client, student, or parent took issue with my actions, they would be able to identify who I was, utilizing my name, badge, and verifiable licensing number, issued by the state licensing board for my profession. Had I engaged in unethical, unprofessional, or unlawful conduct, a complaint could be issued to my licensing board and processes and procedures for holding me accountable for my actions would occur. I was and am honor bound to behave professionally, ethically, and transparently, with clear repercussions should I not.

When you are confident that your actions are not harmful and your behavior towards fellow human beings is not deplorable, there is no reason to hide or obscure your identity. You know who does hide their identity? Bank robbers, rapists, and other criminals who have the intent of escaping punishment for their actions. Law enforcement isn't made safer by wearing masks or denying identification. They are actually creating less 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 our law enforcement officers are easily identifiable. Without visible identification and uniform standards, fear and public distrust in law enforcement increases. Without clear identification, there's no way to know if someone is a legitimate law enforcement officer or someone impersonating a law enforcement officer.

I urge you to **vote in favor of HB155** - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification for public safety, transparency, and accountability, so bad actors may be prosecuted if they behave or act outside of the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jean Montgomery.