

## **Testimony in Support of HB 1415**

### **Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification**

#### **Judiciary Committee**

**March 10, 2026**

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

My name is Anna Britton and I am a resident of Severna Park, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 1415, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification.

**HB 1415 would increase public safety for Marylanders.** The increased presence of unidentified ICE agents around the country has emboldened criminals to impersonate ICE, five incidents of which were detailed by the FBI in an October 17 memo.<sup>1</sup> The FBI recognizes this risk to public safety and encourages law enforcement to adequately identify themselves.

**HB 1415 is necessary due to changes in immigration enforcement tactics.** Prior to 2025, interior immigration enforcement relied primarily on transfers from jails and prisons.<sup>2</sup> In the first half of 2025 all types of enforcement increased, but while the number of street arrests increased by a factor of 11, custody transfers merely doubled.<sup>2</sup> Not only this, but DHS issued a memo made public through a whistleblower report that says they will now enter private residences relying only on administrative paperwork rather than a warrant signed by a judge.<sup>3</sup> These changes represent a fundamental shift in the way ICE agents operate, and thus regulations must be instituted to ensure public safety in the course of these operations.

**HB 1415 would create a path to accountability for law enforcement misconduct.** We have all seen, or are painfully aware, of the videos of ICE and Border Patrol agents killing Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota. We also know that ICE agents shot Tiago Alexandre Sousa-Martins in Glen Burnie on Christmas Eve of last year. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) lied about the Glen Burnie shooting, and changed their story only after Anne Arundel County police publicly contradicted their statements.<sup>4</sup> DHS has also refused to cooperate with state investigations into the Minneapolis shootings and the FBI only opened a

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<sup>1</sup><https://propertyofthepeople.org/document-detail/?doc-id=26364028>

<sup>2</sup><https://deportationdata.org/analysis/immigration-enforcement-first-nine-months-trump.html>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26499371-dhs-ice-memo-1-21-26/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.aacounty.org/police-department/about-us/news/anne-arundel-county-police-department-clarification-december-24>

civil rights probe into the shooting of Pretti after immense public pressure. A federal judge in Minnesota found as of January 28th that ICE had violated 96 court orders in 74 cases.<sup>5</sup> Accountability will clearly not come swiftly or easily, so we must use every tool at our disposal to increase the chances for accountability in the future.

**HB 1415 would deter future incidents of misconduct.** We know that identification matters, and thus this bill would be an effective deterrent, because DHS has resisted identifying the agents involved in these and other shootings, and Secretary Noem even pressured the media, after Jonathan Ross had been identified as Good's shooter, to stop using his name.<sup>6</sup>

**HB 1415 would strengthen community cohesion and trust as well as trust in local law enforcement.** Distrust of any one law enforcement agency affects the public perception of all law enforcement officers. This bill will not only deter criminal impersonation of law enforcement and criminal behavior by law enforcement agents. It will also show Marylanders that their neighbors and state government support them and see all human beings as valuable members of society deserving of respect and accountability.

The ranks of ICE agents will continue to grow as the massive infusion of cash from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has put \$85 billion at the agency's disposal.<sup>7</sup> The incidents of violence by these agents are likely not only to continue, but to increase in frequency due to both a lack of accountability and the rapid and chaotic surge of hiring for the agency.<sup>8</sup> With the federal government unwilling to adequately protect its citizens, the state must step in to do everything it can to promote safety and security for Marylanders. **I urge a favorable report on HB 1415.**

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<sup>5</sup>[https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mnd.230171/gov.uscourts.mnd.230171.10.1\\_2.pdf](https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mnd.230171/gov.uscourts.mnd.230171.10.1_2.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/kristi-noem-dont-say-ice-agent-jonathan-ross-name\\_n\\_696d0428e4b0dbbab17412af](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/kristi-noem-dont-say-ice-agent-jonathan-ross-name_n_696d0428e4b0dbbab17412af)

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.usaspending.gov/federal\\_account/070-0540](https://www.usaspending.gov/federal_account/070-0540)

<sup>8</sup><https://www.reuters.com/world/ice-struggles-vet-recruits-amid-us-immigration-enforcement-push-internal-email-2026-02-26/>