

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

**HB0155 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings**

**Judiciary Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

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

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

ICE agents are not made safer by wearing masks. They are actually creating less safe conditions because the public isn't able to differentiate federal law enforcement from any other criminal or terrorist 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 attended the hearing for the companion bill for this bill, SB0001, on January 22, 2026. I was struck by the oral testimonies. I bring your attention in particular to the eloquent testimony of Major Neill Franklin (ret) from Law Enforcement Action Partnership. He explained that the routine wearing of masks by law enforcement officers offers no tactical advantage and erodes public trust.

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.

Marcia Coe, MD

Leonardtown, Maryland 20650