

Submitter:

CarrieAnn Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4138

You said:

Craft a short testimony to oppose limiting facial coverage for law enforcement

ChatGPT said:

Here's a concise, clear testimony you could deliver aloud or submit in writing. I kept it grounded, respectful, and values-based:

I oppose limits on facial coverage for law enforcement because such restrictions can unintentionally compromise safety, effectiveness, and the dignity of officers doing difficult work.

There are many legitimate reasons officers may need facial coverage—protection from environmental hazards, crowd control situations, undercover or high-risk operations, and increasingly, protection from targeted retaliation in a digital age where identities can be rapidly exposed. These are not abstract concerns; they affect real people and real families.

Accountability in policing matters deeply, but it should be achieved through clear identification numbers, body cameras, professional standards, and transparent oversight—not through policies that increase personal risk without clear public benefit. Forcing facial exposure does not automatically create trust, but it can create vulnerability.

I urge you to pursue accountability measures that balance transparency with officer safety, and to avoid one-size-fits-all rules that limit law enforcement's ability to adapt to complex, evolving situations. Thoughtful policy should protect both the public and those sworn to serve it.

Thank you for your consideration.