

Jean Nguyen, Mar 2, 2026, 2:34 PM

Subject: 5-26 Unmask ICE Act FAVORABLE - Submitted By: Jean Nguyen - (Council Webform)

Comments: Offices Contacted: Council President, Councilmember Balcombe, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez, Councilmember Friedson, Councilmember Glass, Councilmember Jawando, Councilmember Katz, Councilmember Luedtke, Councilmember Mink, Councilmember Sayles, Councilmember Stewart || Good afternoon, The time period for submitting written testimony in favor for Montgomery County Council Bill 5-26 has passed. Below my written testimony in favor of 5-26, the Unmask ICE Act. I urge you to return a favorable result. Best, Jean Montgomery Nguyen. *****

Testimony on Bill 5-26-Favorable 5-26—Unmask ICE Act March 3, 2026 Dear Sponsor Jawando, Co-Sponsors Mink, Stewart, Evans, Sayles, and Glass, President Fani-Gonzalez, and Councilmembers Balcombe, Friedson, Katz, and Luedtke, My name is Jean Montgomery, and I am a resident of Montgomery County and community member of Olney, Maryland. I am writing in support of 5-26 – the Unmask ICE Act. The law ...

- Prohibits masking by all law enforcement operating in Montgomery County.
- Codifies that County policy do no wear masks.
- Helps community members disambiguate Montgomery County Police Department officers from ICE officers who operate lawless, with aggression and brutal impunity.

I support the Unmasking ICE Act because while I am presently a stay at home parent, when I worked, I did not wear a mask to hide my identity. If a colleague, 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 accountability would be initiated. If I wore a mask, it was when the child or client I was interacting with was medically fragile or we were undergoing a worldwide infectious pandemic and not wearing a mask would place the other person's health at risk. Under these circumstances, the masking was for health safety, I wore a name tag, and I was still identifiable and accountable to the individuals I was working with and serving. When you are confident that your actions are not harmful and your behavior towards fellow human beings is not deplorable, you know that there is no reason to hide behind a mask. Our local law enforcement officers must be easily identifiable, so that those seeking their help may approach the officers with trust, knowing their approach will be met with professionalism, protection, and the law being upheld. Some of the darkest chapters of our history hold masked Ku Klux Klan individuals, terrorizing communities and individuals for the purpose of white supremacy. The honor and professionalism of our MCPD must not be sullied by the anonymous, lawless, brutal, and terrifying manner in which ICE operates. For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on 5-26. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Jean Montgomery.