

HB 250 Written Testimony

Rec'd 3-2-26

Stuart Relay

From: Helenmarie Matesi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:20 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am Helenmarie Matesi [REDACTED] Ester AK 99725. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. This is reference to HB250. It is my opinion that any member of any law enforcement agency should be unmasked while performing their duties. Reasons for this are many and varied. Accountability is probably first and foremost. I also feel that masking is a fear tactic that is highly inappropriate. The officers should be have highly visible name tags and easily identified.

When these sort of tactics are used on people in our country, in our state it increases resentment and bad feelings throughout towards all law enforcement.

It's difficult enough to maintain good relationships with community . This kind of policing puts our city and state police in harms way in term of police resentment and bad feelings. It's dangerous for everyone.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email

Stuart Relay

From: Hannah Green <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 12:02 PM
To: House State Affairs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

Please vote yes on HB 250. Officers wearing masks is dangerous to the public as well as themselves. Especially when they do not show ID, etc. Again, please Vote Yes for this.

Hannah Green
Sitka AK

Stuart Relay

From: Cindy Litman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 3:35 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Supporting HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Members of the Alaska House State Affairs Committee,

My name is Cindy Litman. I have been a resident of Sitka for over two decades. Two of my adult children and two of my grandchildren live here.

I am writing in support of HB 250, which bans wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer. This legislation is becoming more urgent as federal immigration policies increasingly impact Alaskans. According to the Alaska ACLU, the number of ICE agents and the number of ICE arrests and detentions in the state have increased dramatically in recent months. A week or so ago, ICE arrested, detained, and deported of a Soldatna mom and her children.

We have a large immigrant community in Sitka—10% of Sitka residence were not citizens at birth, according to data collected in the U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey (ACS). As we've seen, naturalization and lawful status do not necessarily protect immigrants from ICE arrest and detention.

ICE engages in racial profiling. Tribal citizens—the first residents of Alaska on whose land the rest of us reside—are forced to carry multiple forms of ID to avoid ICE arrest, violence, and detention.

ICE's culture of cruelty and lawlessness is promoted by lack of accountability, including masking and lack of agent ID's. At the very minimum, ICE must conform to standards of civil enforcement.


Although he spoke in opposition of HB 250, even Sean Case, chief of the Anchorage Police Department and president of the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police, clarified that he does not support law enforcement hiding their faces: "Using officer safety or doctrine as justification for masking is not valid," Case said. "Local officers have faced these challenges for decades without hiding their identities."

Given that ICE has not demonstrated a willingness to behave lawfully on their own, I strongly support any legislation that encourages them to do so.

Thank you,
Cindy

--
Cindy Litman

[REDACTED]
Sitka, AK 99835



Please note: I check my email only once every day or two. To reach me sooner, please text or call.

Stuart Relay

From: Katie Sinclair <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:46 PM
To: Rep. Sara Hannan; House State Affairs
Subject: Written Testimony Supporting HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Rep. Hannan and the House State Affairs Committee,

I am submitting written testimony in support of House Bill 250 and urge the legislature to pass this bill into law.

Public trust is fundamental to any law enforcement activity and concealing the identities of law enforcement officers makes trust impossible. Erosion of public trust makes law enforcement activities more dangerous for everyone, including law enforcement officers. This bill has received wide support in public testimony. It's a common sense measure to keep Alaska's citizens safe.

Please pass HB 250.

Sincerely,
Katherine Sinclair
House District 17

Stuart Relay

From: Nina Faust <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 4:27 PM
To: House State Affairs; House Judiciary
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please share this with both the State Affairs and Judiciary committee members. Thanks.
Nina Faust

[REDACTED]
Homer AK 99603

February 22, 2026

HB 250: LAW ENFORCEMENT; CONCEALING ONE'S FACE

Alaska's law enforcement agencies follow proper protocol for professional law enforcement agents regarding the wearing of masks.

We live in unprecedented times. Never would I have thought we would see the immigration enforcement agency, ICE, be made into a personal militia of the executive branch all wearing full tactical gear, masks, and bearing smoke bombs, pepper spray, and tear gas to use on both immigrants, nearly 70% not guilty of anything more than a civil offence, and American citizens who are legally protesting ICE's actions. If ICE first researched and got court warrants, targeting only those who have committed felonies, they could be lawfully carried out in more professional ways.

What we are seeing in many cities is an assault on anyone of color using aggressive measures that would qualify as unnecessary brutality escalating fear and resistance for all involved. ICE agents are masking because they are not performing their jobs like professionally trained law enforcement officers following the rule of law. Of course, their methods make Americans and immigrants alike fearful and resentful. This is not the way law enforcement is supposed to work in America.

Because of this unprecedented, despicable application of immigrant enforcement in our states around the country, a law like HB 250 is needed to set a standard for ICE to behave like real law enforcement agents. Passing this bill to require no masks will likely make ICE agents think before brutalizing people in their cars or homes and perhaps make them follow the rule of law. But more than this, it makes it possible for those being mistreated to identify the officer who is doing the brutalizing and to be held accountable. They should also be required to wear a badge with their identification just like our officers do.

This should not be considered a rebuke of what our local police and troopers are doing. Instead look at it as a method to protect the rights of Alaskans and the due process of all. What happened in Minneapolis is a wakeup call.

Last week we saw these brutal tactics unleashed on a family in Soldotna. The woman, dressed in her pajamas and slippers, was aggressively dragged out of her car by ICE agents in freezing cold weather. They arrested her and

her 5-year-old, 16-year-old, and 18-year-old. There was no opportunity to talk to a lawyer or pursue a hearing before a judge before they deported her. No due process!

We are likely to see more aggressive actions like this in Alaska. By passing HB 250, ICE agents, can be held accountable. Maybe if they were properly trained they would not need to wear masks. Please pass HB 250 as a way to keep ICE civil when they operate in this state.

Respectfully,

Nina Faust

Stuart Relay

From: Rep. Ashley Carrick
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 5:05 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: FW: Letter in Opposition of HB 250
Attachments: HB 250 Letter of Opposition (APDEA).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Letter posted separately on BASIS

Stuart Relay

Chief of Staff

Representative Ashley Carrick
Alaska State House
District 35 – West Fairbanks

Committee Aide

House State Affairs Committee

Email: Stuart.Relay@akleg.gov

Office: 907-452-6084

Direct: 907-465-6879

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[The Carrick Capitol Connection](#)



From: Darrell Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 7:00 AM
To: Rep. Ashley Carrick <Rep.Ashley.Carrick@akleg.gov>
Subject: Letter in Opposition of HB 250

Representative Carrick,

Please see the attached letter addressed to you and the House State Affairs Committee, regarding House Bill 250.

Respectfully,

Darrell Evans



Sgt. Darrell Evans | APDEA President

president@apdea.org | www.apdea.net

907.529.2842 | PO Box 230330, Anchorage AK 99523

Stuart Relay

From: Mary Hausler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 3:00 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: hb250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing in support of Representative Hannan's bill HB250. Law enforcement should not be concealing their identity. We have seen recently in Minnesota and other places some of the consequences of having a secret police force that conceals its identity and acts with impunity. I commend Representative Hannan for addressing some of the problems around this with this bill and urge the rest of the house to support it.

Mary Hausler
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Santa Claus [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 3:28 PM
To: House State Affairs; House Judiciary
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Andrew Gray; Rep. Genevieve Mina
Subject: TESTIMONY - I SUPPORT Alaska HB 250: LAW ENFORCEMENT; CONCEALING ONE'S FACE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Alaska House Representatives:

I am testifying in my personal, rather than in any official, capacity and requesting that you please **support** Alaska House Bill 250: "Law Enforcement: Concealing One's Face".

Sec. 11.56.880. Wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer.

(a) A peace officer commits the crime of wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer if, while interacting with the public in the peace officer's official capacity, the peace officer knowingly conceals the peace officer's face with a mask or disguise.

(b) This section does not apply to a peace officer who

(1) is on an undercover assignment;

(2) is wearing

(A) a shield that does not obscure the peace officer's face that is designed to protect the peace officer's face from harm;

(B) a medical mask or respirator that is designed to prevent the transmission of disease if the peace officer has obtained a statement from a licensed physician that the mask or respirator is necessary to protect the health of the peace officer;

(C) a mask for protection against exposure to smoke.

(c) Wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer is a class B misdemeanor.

Decades prior to my Santa years, I was the Special Assistant to the Deputy Police Commissioner, Administration, of New York City (NYPD), Director of the Terrorism Research and Communication Center, and Member of FEMA's National Defense Executive Reserve.

Recently, CityandStateNY.com reported: "New York City's sanctuary city laws prohibit local law enforcement from cooperating with federal agents on immigration-related detainment, but the laws don't prohibit communication... (NYC Mayor) Mamdani seemed to support a more interventionist NYPD approach as he vowed in a message to ICE that 'everyone will be held to the same standard of the law'."

Here is a link to the New York State Senate's' "AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties": <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1901350>.

I am aware of the Alaska House Judiciary's hearing on Monday, Feb. 23, from 1-3 p.m. to learn more about Homeland Security/ICE detainment of minors in Alaska, especially regarding the recent ICE operation in Soldotna. Imagine how terrified a child must feel when s/he sees masked officers detaining or arresting them and their family members. In my estimation, ICE immigration-related detainment operations are NOT "undercover assignments."

I support Alaska's SB 250 and trust that you will support HB 250: Law Enforcement; Concealing Ones' Face.

Best regards, Santa

Santa Claus

North Pole, Alaska

www.SantaClausNorthPoleAlaska.com

Stuart Relay

From: Cecily Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 8:40 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I support HB250 but it does create legitimate concern about aggression Toward peace officers as well as aggression From [them.So](#) maybe address that in the bill as well.

Cecily Morris

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Lisa Idell-Sassi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:32 PM
To: House State Affairs; House Judiciary
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I am a Juneau resident and would like to submit a comment for the record on HB 250, Law Enforcement: concealing one's face.

I am strongly opposed to this bill. I think this bill would unnecessarily put an officer (and perhaps his family) in jeopardy of being doxxed and/or harmed. There are reports where officers have been doxxed, protestors showing up at their homes, their lives being threatened and their families.

An officer conducting an investigation, or an arrest, has every right to protect their personal identity for their safety and their family.

Thank you,

Lisa Idell-Sassi
[REDACTED]

Juneau

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Stuart Relay

From: Rob and Rose Welton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:48 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: rweltonjr@gmail.com
Subject: Public Support for HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I write to voice my support for HB 250, and it's intent to make it a crime for peace officers to wear masks in public. Masked police officers isn't something that should happen in a free society.

It's the sort of thing that differentiates the United States, and Alaska from the world's huntas, strongmen and dictators. In Russia, masked men snatching people off the street is co common, it's acquired a nickname: the "mask show".

Hiding peace officers identities makes it easier to evade accountability, and to act unlawfully without consequence. More fundamentally, masking peace officers is about intimidating and terrorizing the citizenry.

Current events impel us to change our laws. In city after city, un-masked Federal agents rough up, assault and tragically kill American citizens. It doesn't take a huge leap of imagination to foresee a radical Alaskan Governor using masked officers, in concert with the already advertized ICE raids, to intimidate voters and interfere with the 2026 election.

I have always admired the libertarian streak in Alaskan culture. This bill will help defend the independent strain in our communities. It is worth defending.

Thanks for hearing me out. Also thanks for your service to the people of the great State of Alaska.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Welton,
Douglas, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Kathryn Bolak [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:21 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I think a distinction needs to be made between peace officers, local and State troopers and police, and Federal officers or employees. This bill is clearly referring to ICE and CBP, specifically the lack of accountability, and abuses taking place in the Lower 48. Uniforms, badges, body cams, no masking are essential to protect Alaskans, public trust, transparency, and accountability. I agree that the wearing of masks impedes clear communication, erodes trust, increases fear, intimidation, and the potential for abuse.

Thank you!

Kathryn Bolak
Chugiak AK

Stuart Relay

From: Julie McBrien [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 4:59 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: I support HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon:

I am writing in support of HB 250. An encounter with a masked official would be incredibly scary. There is no need for masking in a democratic society

Thank you,
Julie McBrien
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Luann McVey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 3:55 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support SB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

I'm testifying in support of House Bill 250, which prohibits city, state, and federal officers from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing their duties. This bill is especially needed at this time to rebuild trust and transparency between the public and the law enforcement officers who are our neighbors. Wearing masks to conceal one's identity brings to mind the white uniforms of the Ku Klux Klan or the gray ski mask of Nancy Guthrie's kidnapper. Facial masking allows individuals to anonymously commit crimes against others, obfuscating accountability. The bill is crafted with exceptions for undercover operations, health and safety restrictions, respirators and smoke, and cold weather protection.

Please pass this bill out of committee to strengthen community relationships between everyday Alaskans and our peace officers.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey
Retired Alaskan Teacher
[REDACTED]
Douglas, Alaska 99824

Stuart Relay

From: Courtney Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 3:18 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Hb 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

For the record- I support this bill and urge you to pass it out of committee. Thank you Rep Hannah, Fields, and Mina for introducing it.

Courtney Moore

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Ak
99501

Stuart Relay

From: Ricardo Worl [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:58 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Esteemed Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 250 - Law Enforcement: Concealing One's Face.

I appreciate the work of law enforcement / peace officers in keeping our communities safe and ensuring citizens obey the law and the constitution.

Unfortunately, in recent months our country has witnessed federal officers working for Department of Homeland Security and/or Immigration and Customs Enforcement breaking laws, violating constitutional rights, and using excessive and unnecessary force against citizens and non-citizens. These officers are absolutely emboldened in their illegal and violent behavior by being allowed to conceal their identities behind face masks.

No other law enforcement or military personnel hide their faces in shame while conducting official government business. Our peace officers take pride in their work and proudly wear their uniforms without concealing their face. Seeing human faces builds trust for our communities and children and builds in a level of accountability for actions and behavior.

HB 250 is totally reasonable and is a step in the right direction for re-establishing the credibility of DHS and ICE officers, and may help citizens who encounter officers who refuse to identify themselves.

Alaska Legislators who oppose this bill will one day have to answer to their grandchildren as to why they supported domestic terrorism behavior.

Respectfully,

Ricardo Worl
Juneau, AK

Stuart Relay

From: Sue Keller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:55 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: I Support HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello, I am offering public testimony on HB 250, to prohibit peace officers from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing official duties.

I support HB250.

In my many decades of life experience, I have never seen a policeman or woman wear a mask in the USA. I respect the police, depend on police, am grateful to police. They have a tough job in many settings.

I have never heard until last year that some officers (namely federal ICE officers) even wanted to wear masks or thought that was a good idea.

So now that the issue arises, I support the Alaska law to prohibit masks on officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Carolyn Keller
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99709
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: August Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:44 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB-250 Law Enforcement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I do not believe law enforcement officers should be able to conceal their identities while performing their duties as law enforcement. As someone else put it: “Transparency builds trust. Trust builds safety.”

Officers should be held accountable for their actions by their departments and leaders but also by the communities they claim to serve and protect.

Masking outside of health and safety takes away transparency between enforcement and community, leading to the erosion of trust, which leads to suspicion about officers being who they say they are, which leads to fears concerning public and personal safety.

If an officer is acting appropriately and following policy and guidelines then why should they feel it’s necessary to hide their faces and identities?

Stuart Relay

From: mary robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:43 PM
To: House State Affairs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Respectfully request NO MASKS for ICE agents. Even better, no ICE agents in Alaska.
Mary Robinson

Stuart Relay

From: Lori Crupi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:35 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please support HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,
Please support HB 250, which bans officers from wearing masks or disguises intended to conceal their identity. Nonverbal communication is often cited as making up more than 90 percent of communication. Nonverbal communication includes body language, gestures, and facial expressions. Concealing someone's face with a mask makes it harder for people to understand what the masked person is communicating. It makes them look more dangerous and threatening, and likely makes it harder for an officer to deescalate a situation. It's also more difficult for the public to trust that the masked agent is there to help, perhaps leading people to wonder whether they are actually peace officers or if they are criminals disguising themselves in order to get away with a crime. Seeing an armed man in a mask doesn't put me at ease. Unless it's an undercover operation or very special circumstance, law enforcement should be clearly identified and their goals transparent. It's safer for the public and for the officer.
Thank you for taking my comment.
Lori Crupi
Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Laura Stats [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:02 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for requesting public comment on HB 250.

I am in favor of this important legislation and I encourage you to support it.

I base my support on the notion that our faces are key to expressing our intentions. And because interactions with law enforcement may often be under tense circumstances and covering one's face accentuates tension. In those circumstances it is imperative that all techniques of communication are implemented. We communicate through tone of voice, body language, words and facial expressions.

As a nurse for many years in the emergency department here in Juneau we had yearly trainings on proper communication techniques when patients were in an emotionally escalated state. We learned that the nonverbal aspects of communication superseded our actual verbal messages. That would include, tone of voice, body language and facial expression.

Basic to human interaction is being able to see a person's face because we gain instinctual information to formulate the trust level of a human encounter. Covering a person's face undermines trust.

We have unfortunately been introduced to masking by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. The escalation that has occurred in Minneapolis has shaken Americans across the country.

HB 250 is designed to remind us that communication from law enforcement begins with a direct face to face encounters to strengthen communication not obscure it. I urge you to support HB 250.

Thank you,
Laura Stats
Juneau

Stuart Relay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:59 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please support HB 250.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I urge you to support HB 250 which would apply to city, state, and federal officers. When officers conceal their faces, public trust erodes, fear and escalation increases. Masks undermine transparency and accountability. The exceptions in HB 250 for wearing masks are reasonable. Please support HB 250. Thank you, Representative Hannan, for sponsoring this bill.

Respectfully,
Michele Masuda
Juneau, AK

Stuart Relay

From: Maria Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:30 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Vote YES on HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello -

My name is Maria Wagner and I live in Juneau. I'm writing to ask you to support House Bill 250, which would prohibit peace officers from wearing masks that conceal their identities while performing their duties.

I am horrified at what I am seeing in other parts of the country with masked ICE officers acting lawlessly, violating peoples' civil rights, and committing violence against our communities. This is unacceptable anywhere in the United States, and it really worries me in terms of Alaska, where we have many vulnerable populations who are part of our communities. Officers wearing masks erodes community trust and increases fear and uncertainty among the community.

Thank you for making the right choice in this matter.

Maria Wagner
[REDACTED]
Juneau AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: M Izard [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:25 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Testimony re: HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

I would like to testify in support of HB250, which would prevent law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings. I support this because law enforcement should be transparent. When faces are covered, officers cannot be held accountable for their actions, and civilians can be scared and intimidated which can escalate situations. Additionally, there have been non-officers who claim to be officers in the lower 48, resulting in uncertainty around if people taking action are true law enforcement or imposters. Banning face coverings for officers in Alaska is a small step forward towards keeping people safe from law enforcement overreach or misconduct, but it is a necessary step to ensure that law enforcement officers can be held accountable for their actions — good or bad — and to help ensure that people who are not officers can not get away with impersonation of officers.

Sincerely,
Melanie Izard
Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Annika Ord [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:21 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I'm writing in support for HB 250 that prohibits peace officers from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing duties. When officers conceal their faces, community trust erodes, nonverbal communication is lost, fear and escalation increases and risks of impersonation rises. Our law enforcement officers are our neighbors. In ensuring we see their faces while they perform their jobs, we strengthen accountability, trust, and community relationships. I hope you will consider supporting this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration,
Annika Ord
Juneau, Alaska
99801

Stuart Relay

From: Tim [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:05 AM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Tim
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I fully support HB 250 and strongly urge its passage.

The brutal and lawless actions of the Trump administration carried out by masked gangs of federal officers is reprehensible. It is a process I never expected to see in this country. The tactics being used are meant to terrorize both citizens and non-citizens alike. When law enforcement is carried out responsibly and lawfully, there is no need for masking identities.

Specially to the Republicans on this committee, if such actions were being carried out by a Democratic administration, I think we would both be supporting this legislation. So let's take political loyalties out of the equation and consider it on its merits. Law enforcement officers should simply not be masking their identities.

Tim Quintal
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Michelle Hale [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:55 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250 "mask bill" testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking up Representative Hannan's HB 250, the "mask bill."

I believe the future of our country hinges on decisions like the one you will be making on this bill. Allowing what is essentially a secret police to police us, the citizens of this country, without us even being able to see their faces, doesn't just border on authoritarianism, it is authoritarianism.

I applaud Representative Hannan's efforts and I encourage you to support this bill. I am terrified of what our country is becoming, where citizens exercising their first amendment rights are shot and killed in our streets by masked and camo'd "soldiers." Please, at least remove those masks.

Thank you,
Michelle Hale
Juneau

Stuart Relay

From: Victoria OConnell Curran [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:49 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please support HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chair person and committee members,

Please support HB250.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I have lived in Alaska since 1980. If we all take a step back from this fall and winter this bill would be in no way controversial and would be seen as supporting common sense and common practice of law enforcement agents. I believe it benefits public trust and I truly believe it benefits law enforcement as well. Trust between law enforcement and the public is key to healthy communities. We have seen a shift by some federal agencies to have enforcement officers wear masks which, in addition to hiding their identifies, also seems intended to intimidate the very people we entrust them to protect. It limits the ability of the public to understand intent of communications between officers and the public which can lead to unintended consequences. When officers are not readily identifiable, it increases the risk of impersonation by unauthorized individuals, which further undermines public trust, endangers public safety, and hinders legitimate law enforcement operations. Further, when officers are not identifiable there is real risk of impersonation of officers by bad actors.

I believe that any law enforcement officer must uphold the law, including in their own actions and I think the majority of officers believe this as well. However, the use of facial coverings by law enforcement to hid identity also blurs that line of accountability for individual actions and anonymizing the officer can contribute to unlawful or highly charged interactions that would not have occurred had the individual officer know they would be held to account.

I appreciate the sponsors of this bill bringing it forward and I urge you to pass this out of committee for a full vote.

Thank you.

Victoria Curran
Sitka, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: deb capp [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:28 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please uphold HB 250. Support trust and transparency.
Non verbal communication matters. Accountability is key to community safety and trust.
Peace officers are about community safety for all citizens.
Thank you.
Debera Cokeley
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: LS Giguere [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:25 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Masked ICE agents incite fear and distrust reminiscent of darker times. If our law enforcement and immigration officers were committed to our safety and legitimately enforcing the law—and were respectful to us as American citizens and human beings—they wouldn't need masks for their own protection.

No one intent on violating our Constitutional and human rights should be allowed to hide behind a mask.

For these reasons, I support HB 250.

Sincerely,
Lynda Giguere

[REDACTED]
Douglas, AK 99824
Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Chandler O'Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:23 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I appreciate this proactive legislation to set law enforcement in Alaska and Alaskan communities up for success. Public safety is served by clear communication, respectful interactions, trust, transparency, and accountability, all of which are more possible when we can see each other face to face. I believe that this law would be to the benefit of both people in enforcement roles and to community members who interact with them.

Alaskans do not want to be policed by anonymous actors of the state who hide their faces from community members. With a clear precedent now in place that the Trump administration will deploy masked Federal agents into states, against the wishes of both state and local governments, it is smart for Alaska to clearly legislate now how government agents must conduct themselves in Alaska.

This legislation provides ample exemptions to allow face coverings to be used in many different situations, while banning their unfettered use, which can create a false sense of separation, anonymity, and power imbalance, as has been evident in the mass deployment of masked ICE agents in Minneapolis.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Best,

Chandler O'Connell
Sitka, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Riki Sipe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:18 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I support passage of HB 250. I believe the bill allows for the wearing of masks when required for safety of peace officers and protects the public by insuring that they can identify who is interacting with them.

Riki Sipe
Fairbanks, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Jordan Nigro [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:18 AM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: In Support of HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear State Affairs Members,

I am writing to express my support for HB 250. This important piece of legislation holds law enforcement to the same standard as the rest of us in the work-place. What is happening around the country with ICE covering their faces while harassing, injuring, and killing citizens is akin to the KKK with their hoods. This bill provides reasonable exceptions for health, weather, and actual undercover operations. Beyond that, law enforcement should be willing to show their face in the work they do.

Years ago the Juneau Empire, when it was still a local paper, allowed folks to comment on articles anonymously. The vitriol that was spewed in the comment section under hidden identities was horrific. When the paper changed that and comments had to have a name attached, the entire comment section changed. This of course was before the days of social media. But the point remains, when people are seen for what they do, they behave better. Law enforcement hiding their identity while out among the people they are charged to "serve and protect" is unacceptable. I know many good cops, they don't need to wear masks to do their job because they can stand behind their work proudly. This is how it should be.

This bill should be unanimously passed, anything else is simply a nod to empowering abusive behaviors.

Thank you for your time and your service to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jorden Nigro
Juneau

--

Speak your truth. Even if your voice shakes.

Stuart Relay

From: Helena Fagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:00 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representatives,

As a Juneau constituent, I strongly support HB 250. I see no downside to prohibiting peace officers from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing duties. Visibility strengthens accountability and strengthens community relationships. The people of Minneapolis and other large cities have been terrorized and traumatized by masked agents grabbing them off the streets and out of vehicles and homes. We do not need this in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Helena Fagan

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

Stuart Relay

From: chickeninin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:49 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom it May Concern;

Please support HB 250 as it will keep our community safe by prohibiting city, state, and federal officers operating in Alaska from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing official duties, while allowing exemptions as appropriate.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Jacobs

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

she/her

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

Stuart Relay

From: kara Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:47 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my support of HB250 which prohibits peace officers from wearing masks that conceal their identity while performing duties. This bill will provide accountability to peace officers and build trust with the community. It will help prevent nefarious abuse by bad actors who pretend to be masked agents. Seeing a masked agent during a encounter can be terrifying and lead to a breakdown of communication and increased escalation. Showing their faces, agents increase accountability and strengthen community relations.

Thank you,
Kara Johnson

[REDACTED]
Juneau AK 99801

--
Kara Johnson

Stuart Relay

From: Mary Calmes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:19 AM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Maxine Dibert; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 250: Please Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Greetings all,

Please vote YES on HB 250.

This is an important bill to support. Law enforcement whether city, state or federal should not be wearing masks.

People are being terrorized in this country by masked agents and it needs to stop. I am so heartened by this bill in Alaska brought by Sara Hannan of Juneau. Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Mary Calmes
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Mary Calmes
[REDACTED]

Laughter: The tangible evidence of hope.

Stuart Relay

From: Mark Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:17 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I wish to express support for HB 250 prohibiting law enforcement officials from concealing their face in the line of duty. We expect outlaws to conceal their faces to shield them from accountability for illegal acts. Certainly law enforcement officials are on the other end of the spectrum, responsible for openly protecting the public.

I will take this opportunity to express gratitude for all public servants, legislators, judges etc. for being the face of leadership, law and order.

Thank you, Mark Miller

[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Diane DeSloover [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 8:27 AM
To: House State Affairs; Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Ky Holland; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Support for HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 17, 2026

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I write in support of HB 250. I wish there wasn't a need for such a bill, but unfortunately, in these times it is necessary to make it perfectly clear what we expect from our public servants.


We all learned during the Covid 19 pandemic that faces concealed behind masks were very difficult to identify, read as to facial expression and even to hear clearly through a mouth covering. This situation is unacceptable when citizens are engaging with peace officers. Citizens have a right to be able to communicate with those officers in the most effective way possible – openly, without any masking of the face. This is especially important in difficult, emotionally charged situations.

A more disturbing reason to prevent peace officers from wearing masks when performing their duties is what our nation witnessed in Minneapolis recently. Masked ICE agents were empowered by their anonymity to abuse their power and avoid accountability for their illegal actions. We don't want our peace officers to hide behind masks like criminal thugs who can do whatever they want to us.

Putting a prohibition on face masks for peace officers will ensure that Alaskans can have open, clear communication with them. We want to see who we are interacting with, read their facial expressions, hear their words plainly and have them recognizable and accountable for their actions. Please pass HB 250 for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Diane DeSloover


Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Leon Lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:49 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please support HB 250 that requires ICE agents to be unmasked. Masked agents are a danger to public safety.

Thank you for supporting HB250.

Karen Post
4375 Peartree loop
Fairbanks, AK

Stuart Relay

From: Tima [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:15 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I totally support this bill to prohibit peace officers in the state of Alaska from wearing masks with some exemptions. This is necessary to prevent Alaska from being the next Minneapolis. Officers should be identifiable. Citizens should not be terrified by masked armed agents, breaking into houses, breaking into cars and terrifying all of us. Accountability, not unbridled control.

Tima Priess
[REDACTED]
Ester, AK 99725

Stuart Relay

From: Irene Bortnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 6:51 AM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Alyse Galvin
Subject: Support for HB 250 LAW ENFORCEMENT; CONCEALING ONE'S FACE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thank you, Representatives for the work you do.

Please vote in favor of HB250 prohibiting anyone working in law enforcement (local, state or federal) from concealing their faces. I see no legitimate reason for anyone working in that capacity to be hiding their identity. We will all be safer if HB 250 passes.

Sincerely,
Irene Bortnick

Stuart Relay

From: Christy Everett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:58 AM
To: House State Affairs; Rep. Mike Prax
Subject: Please support HB250 and stop masking of law enforcement officers!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representatives,

Law enforcement officers must have the public trust if they are to succeed in maintaining order and enforcing local, state and national laws. They have power that ordinary citizens don't have and therefore must be held accountable for the use of that power. Allowing them to conceal their identity with masks leads to abuses of power, as we have seen in Minneapolis and elsewhere, including authoritarian regimes across the world. This bill would restrict the ability to wear masks to common sense circumstances, while maintaining accountability. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Everett

[REDACTED]
North Pole, AK 99705

Stuart Relay

From: Mary Hakala [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:18 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: hakalaord@gmail.com
Subject: HB 250 Public Testimony
Attachments: hb 250.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Carrick and Members of House State Affairs Committee,

Attached please find testimony in support of HB 250, Law Enforcement; Concealing One's Face. Please include this in the Committee's record of public comment.

Respectfully,

Mary Hakala
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Megan Lingle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:12 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Support for HB 250 – Law Enforcement Transparency

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House State Affairs Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 250, introduced by Sara Hannan.

Transparency and accountability are foundational to public trust in law enforcement. When officers engage with the public, particularly in high-stress situations, the ability to see their faces matters. Facial expressions are a critical part of communication, de-escalation, and human connection. Concealing identity undermines trust and increases fear at a time when communities across the country are grappling with concerns about policing practices.

HB 250 is not anti-law enforcement. It is pro-trust. It affirms that Alaska values visible, accountable, community-centered policing. The bill thoughtfully includes exemptions for undercover work, health protection, and extreme weather, ensuring officer safety while maintaining transparency.

Alaska's peace officers are our neighbors. Preserving strong community relationships requires openness and clear identification, not anonymity. This bill helps ensure that masked policing does not become normalized in our state.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 250 and stand for transparency, accountability, and public confidence in law enforcement.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Lingle
Juneau, AK 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Jennifer Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 7:39 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Advocacy in Support of HB 250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Jennifer Thompson
[REDACTED] Gustavus, AK 99826

I am writing in support of HB 250.

Although I now live in Gustavus, I was a 35+ year resident of Juneau. As a mother, teacher (now retired), neighbor in a small subdivision and long time Early Childhood Educator and advocate I am concerned for the accountability an officer of the law presents when wearing a mask rather than an open exchange of information and clear communication when everyone can see each other.

Reading, viewing and listening to the National News doesn't seem to present good reasons for masking and not identifying officers of the law. It contradicts how we as citizens learn to trust and feel safe with a police force, especially in smaller communities. When I was teaching young children in the elementary classroom we invited police officers to visit, present information and be available for children to ask questions and develop a positive relationship. These same police officers could eventually be involved in a situation where families and children may encounter them or need their help. Wearing a mask and hiding one's face does not give the families, children or other members of a community a trust in a police officer in the same way.

As a professional I expect other professionals to present themselves in a manner that represents the work they do in a community. Wearing a mask, hiding one's identity and potentially limiting the ability to have a positive outcome all seem to be in direct opposition to the role a police officer can have within a community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill.

Jennifer Thompson
Gustavus, AK 🏡

[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Emily Kane [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 5:57 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Responsible policing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I support SB 250
Thank you for creating mandates for accountable law enforcement.

Emily Kane

[REDACTED]
Juneau AK 99801

www.DrEmilyKane.com

My primary care practice is closed.

Fullscript.com

Be well!

Stuart Relay

From: Laura Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 6:44 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: In support of HB250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am writing in support of the HB250 prohibiting use of facial coverings for Alaskan peace officers in the course of their duties. I applaud the proactive proposal of this legislation in light of the tragic shootings of two citizens by masked federal agents in Minneapolis in January.

As a social worker, my trainings in deescalation techniques universally emphasized the potential strength of using verbal and non-verbal communication in stabilizing tense situations. It's pretty difficult to talk from behind a face mask and use your voice calm down an emotionally charged encounter. By inhibiting the ability to communicate, masks significantly reduce the opportunity to resolve a given situation without the use of force.

Instead, masks worn by law enforcement promote fear and contribute to an "us vs. them" mentality that erodes community trust and increases resentment towards police.

As a student of human behavior and social psychology, I think it's important to consider that masks also have the capacity to transform the wearer. A facial covering provides a sense of anonymity, which in turn can lead one to do things they wouldn't do if they felt they could be identified.

Please consider the value of this legislation to promote trust and not fear in Alaskans' relationship with our law enforcement officers.

Laura Lucas
[REDACTED]
Juneau 99801