

Dear Chair McEntee, members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of H 7211, which would prohibit law enforcement agents including federal law enforcement from wearing masks and require that these agents show appropriate identification including names and badge numbers.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are routinely detaining migrants - including those lawfully in this country - suspected migrants, and US citizens in multiple states without due cause and without judicial warrants. What typically happens is that an unmarked car or van pulls up, masked agents apprehend a suspect, and they put the suspect in the car or van.

These actions are indistinguishable from kidnappings, and the concealment of the identities of these agents is part of that. ICE and CBP are behaving not as law enforcement enforcing our nation's laws, but as an unaccountable secret police waging a campaign of mass terror.

For the sake of our citizens and our state as a place of law, decency, and pluralistic democracy, we cannot allow these unaccountable agencies to wage their terror campaign here. We must require that when in our state that they follow law enforcement norms and are accountable for their actions.

This starts with H 7211, and I strongly urge you to support this bill and clear its way for passage into law.

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