



New York State Unmasks ICE

NEW YORK — Senator Patricia Fahy (D-NY) and Assemblymember Tony Simone (D-NY), sponsors of the [MELT \(Mandating End of Lawless Tactics\) Act](#), to unmask ICE, announce that their bill has passed both houses.

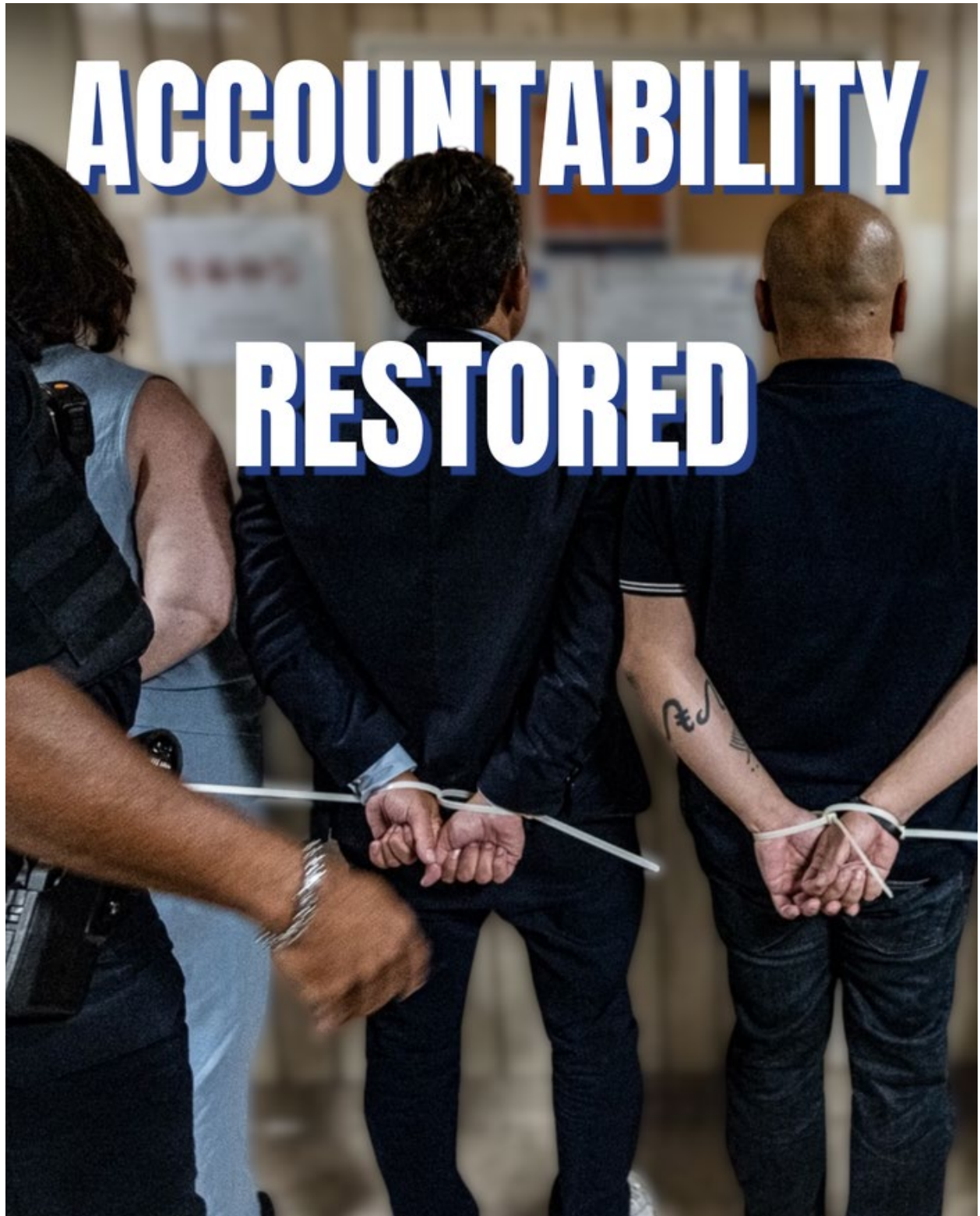


In New York State, law enforcement officers, including federal officers, are now banned from wearing masks in most circumstances.

“Our communities, immigrant and not, are living in complete and utter fear,” **said Assemblymember Tony Simone**. “Masked agents acting under the direction of Donald Trump are entering our workplaces, courthouses, and communities. They are disappearing people to unaccountable facilities with no due process. What is to stop vigilantes from taking up these same tactics? This is flat out un-American. The MELT Act will restore accountability over these masked vigilantes.”

“When agents of the federal government are operating like masked militias, we’ve crossed a dangerous line by turning immigration enforcement into a paramilitary secret police force that should shock the nation’s collective conscience,” **said Senator Patricia Fahy (D—Albany)**. “Masking by ICE agents goes beyond legitimate immigration enforcement; it’s intimidation, and it echoes authoritarian regimes, not the United States of America. While I have long supported comprehensive immigration reform at the national level, I’m proud that we have included our MELT Act in this immigration package to restore transparency, accountability, and the rule of law before ICE’s tactics and the fear they create in our communities become normalized.”

In the summer of 2025, Assemblymember Simone, joined by a dozen other state and local officials, [was arrested trying to conduct oversight of the detention center at 26 Federal Plaza](#).



The immigration agreement takes several other critical measures to protect all New Yorkers. The Local Cops Local Crimes Act will end cooperation on civil immigration enforcement. ICE will be barred from entering schools, libraries, community centers,

polling locations, and other sensitive locations without a warrant. And lastly, all government officials, including ICE, can be held accountable in court for violating constitutional rights.

Additionally, elements of Senator Fahy's and Assemblymember Simone's [Reporting of Arrests, Detentions, Actions, and Removals \(RADAR\) Act](#) were included in the newly-created Office of Immigrant Trust, under the New York State Attorney General's Office.



“It is sad that we have reached a point in America where immigrants and citizens alike are being terrorized by masked police operating without transparency or accountability, " **said Assemblymember Tony Simone**. “No one exercising government power should be able to hide their face from the public. Every person in this country deserves due process and constitutional protections, regardless of immigration status. Today, New York State is fighting back against the authoritarian abuse of power coming from the Trump White House by standing up for transparency, accountability, and the basic democratic principle that government power must never operate in the shadows.”