



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony in Support of SB 858 - Firearms Safe Storage/Jaelynn's Law

TO: Senator Will Smith, Jr, Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ken Shilling, UULM-MD Gun Violence Prevention, Lead Advocate  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

DATE: February 21, 2023

Unitarians Universalists recognize that there are legitimate reasons for gun ownership. There must be a balance of rights and responsibilities. Owning a gun comes with responsibilities to prevent gun violence.

Firearms are the leading cause of death in Maryland children under 18. I am also deeply concerned about the alarming number of gun suicides in minors who should not have access to guns. Clearly, we are failing to meet our responsibility to our youth.

Strong child access prevention laws have been shown to reduce youth-involved shootings. The measure before you today is another tool to protect all of us from gun violence. We must take action.

We urge you to vote for Senate Bill 858. We ask you to stand on the side of love and justice. We ask this in memory of Jaelynn Willey, and so many other children who have lost their lives in Maryland due to gun violence.

We urge a favorable report,

*Ken Shilling*

Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate