

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

TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Elijah Hicks, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
DATE: March 30, 2023

My name is Elijah Hicks, I'm a student at Annapolis High School in Maryland. I'm writing to ask that you please help pass Jaelynn's Law which aims at keeping guns out of the hands of children.

Unfortunately, guns are being used to kill more than they are to protect. It's inhumane to freely allow individuals to easily obtain weapons that can murder an entire room of people in seconds. Hundreds of families destroyed, people who will never see their children, mothers, fathers, brothers or sisters, ever again. We need to make massive changes to our laws and we need this now.

Recently, there was a 6 year old boy in Virginia who shot his teacher with a 9mm Taurus handgun while his teacher Abigail Zwerner was teaching the class. Fortunately, the teacher survived with serious bullet wounds, but the event shows that we need stronger gun laws and we need them now.

Gun laws work.

The measure before you today is another tool to protect all of us from gun violence. We ask you to stand on the side of love and justice. We urge you to vote for this bill and others that strengthen Maryland's gun violence prevention laws.

I'll be awaiting your response and thank you for your time.

***Elijah Hicks***