



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of - HB 416 - Public Schools — Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings — Requirements

TO: Delegate Atterbeary, Chair and members of the Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Ken Shilling, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate
DATE: February 7, 2024

In my faith tradition, we do not need to think alike, in order to love alike. We have a moral duty to provide public safety for our children to learn without fear of gun violence.

When I went to school in the 1960's, we did not have active shooter drills or lockdowns. Today, we need moral courage to have difficult conversations on how to best protect those we love.

HB 416 requires best practices that are trauma-informed, as well as developmentally and age appropriate. It requires appropriate notifications so people can act in informed ways, avoiding any surprise that may trigger trauma. It provides for mental health follow-up, as well as additional support to help people cope.

HB 416 requires that we study the effectiveness and psychological impact of these drills to ensure trauma-informed best practices. It is my fervent hope that the next generation can live safely without the need for active shooter drills.

HB 416 requires distribution of model content on secure firearms storage. Responsible gun owners know that gun safes save lives. Education on secure firearm storage makes our schools safer.

We all have a moral duty to provide for public safety. We urge you to vote for House Bill 416. Let us act together in Love.

We urge a favorable report,

Ken Shilling

Ken Shilling
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate