



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of - SB 159- Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry - Establishment

TO: Senator Will Smith, Jr. Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings
Committee
FROM: Ken Shilling, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate
DATE: February 7, 2023

We, Unitarian Universalists, hold the life of each person to be sacred. We feel the loss of each life due to gun violence. We have a collective responsibility for protecting all lives from gun violence. Gun violence affects all of us, as the effects of one event ripple out into the community. When firearms are the cause of their suffering, we should take steps to prevent this harm, where possible.

Individuals should have the right to register on a voluntary “do not sell registry”. People know when they should not have access to firearms. They know when they could be a danger to themselves, or to others.

Access to firearms is a major contributor to suicides. Preventing access to guns will decrease suicides by guns and save lives.

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.

We urge a favorable report,

Ken Shilling

Ken Shilling
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate