



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 824: Public Safety — Regulated Firearms — Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun

TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Ken Shilling, UULM-MD Gun Violence Prevention, Lead Advocate
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
DATE: February 22, 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.

Unitarians Universalists affirm our First Amendment right for public safety and freedom to assemble. Those who receive a license to carry, wear and transport a handgun must complete appropriate training in use of force, safe handling, and proficiency. They have a moral obligation and a responsibility to consider the impact of their actions on other people.

HB 824 clearly delineates disqualifiers for denying a license to people who: committed specific crimes, violated certain supervised probations, or exhibited habitual patterns of irresponsible behavior. The bill clarifies the process for revoking a permit or denying the permit's renewal to a person who does not meet the qualifications or violates provisions in this bill. It also specifies mandatory training for possessing a handgun. Finally, it provides appropriate exceptions for wear, carry and transport of a handgun. All these provisions work together to ensure the safety of the gun owner and those around them.

We urge you to vote for House Bill 824. We ask you to stand on the side of love and justice. We believe that these provisions will strengthen public safety in Maryland.

We urge a favorable report,

Ken Shilling

Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate