



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of - SB 432- Public Schools — Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings — Requirements

TO: Senator Brian Feldman, Chair Education, Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Ken Shilling, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate
DATE: February 7, 2024

As a Unitarian Universalist, I know that we do not need to think alike, in order to love alike. We believe that we have a moral duty to provide public safety for our children to learn without fear of gun violence. In the spirit of love that binds us all together, I am asking you to support **SB 432 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements**.

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

SB 432 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.

SB 432 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.

SB 432 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 Senate Bill 432.
Let us act together in Love.

We urge a favorable report,

Ken Shilling

Ken Shilling, Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate