



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 943- Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

To: Senator Smith, Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee
From: Ken Shilling, MD UULM-MD Gun Violence Prevention, Issue Lead,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
Date: February 19, 2025

Unitarians Universalists recognize the need for safety from gun violence in domestic violence situations. We have a moral obligation and responsibility to lower the risk of gun violence to family members. That is why we support **SB 943- Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**.

Currently, a respondent can turn over one firearm and still have additional firearms in their possession. This means that their family members will continue to live in fear knowing that the respondent has other firearms. A respondent should turn over any and all firearms in their possession.

There must be standard procedures for the respondent to surrender firearms to law enforcement officials. The respondent must surrender firearms at the onset of the initial protective order. The respondent must refrain from possession of any firearm for the duration of the interim protective order.

SB 943 provides reasonable and standard measures to ensure that the respondent fully comply with the protective orders to surrender any and all firearms. The standards also authorizes law enforcement authorities to search for firearms with probable cause and without the respondent's presence.

We urge you to vote for **SB 943**. 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.

Thank you,

Ken Shilling

Ken Shilling
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate

