



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

## Testimony Support - HB 577 - Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Convertible Pistols

To: Delegate Sandy Bartlett, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee  
From: Deborah Lattimer, MSSW, MPH, Lead Advocate, Gun Violence Prevention  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.  
Date: February 11, 2025

Unitarians Universalists recognize the inherent danger of firearms that are convertible to machine guns. We have a moral obligation and responsibility to uphold the law that machine guns are unlawful for citizens to own. ATF data shows that recoveries of machine gun conversion devices, including switches, increased by 784% from 2019 to 2023 alone. These converted handguns are capable of firing 20 rounds per second.

Manufacturers of certain pistols know that their firearms are easily converted into machine guns. These manufacturers have refused to alter the design of these firearms sufficiently to prevent their conversion into machine guns.

**HB 577** prohibits the sale of new handguns that can be easily converted into fully automatic machine guns using illegal devices known as switches. It holds manufacturers to a basic safety standard: If you want to sell in Maryland, your pistol cannot be designed to accept a switch. It follows the model recently enacted in California, proving this approach is both achievable and effective.

We urge you for a **favorable vote on House Bill 577**. 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  
*Deborah A. Lattimer*

UULM-MD Lead Advocate for Gun Violence Prevention