



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 958 Pubic Safety - Criminal Law - Untraceable Firearms

TO: Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Janice Bird, MD, Co-Chair, Gun Violence Task Force, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

DATE: March 3, 2020

Gun violence affects all of us. So why would anyone want to allow untraceable guns, including 3D printed guns and firearms assembled from kits, without serial numbers to exist? They cannot be traced and can otherwise circumvent Maryland's regulated firearm registry.

We, as Unitarian Universalists, believe that we all belong to an interconnected community responsible for the safety and well-being of all. Wendi Winters was one of our faith, and a beloved, vibrant member of our Annapolis congregation. She was a victim of gun violence at the Capital Gazette shooting in June 2018.

Common sense gun laws save lives! This bill is a means to keep criminals and domestic abusers from gaining access to untraceable "ghost" guns.

Some of you were Maryland legislators when the Firearms Act of 2013 was signed into law. These measures have been effective in decreasing gun violence without compromising the rights of law-abiding citizens.

We ask our legislators to stand on the side of love and justice and vote for this bill and others that will strengthen Maryland's gun violence prevention laws to further limit the ability of dangerous and irresponsible individuals access to firearms.

The measure before you today is another tool for law enforcement to protect the people from gun violence. We urge a favorable report.

Janice Bird, MD

Annapolis, MD