



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 259- Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2023)

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 1, 2023

Unitarian Universalists are committed to measures that contribute to the public well-being. We must balance rights and responsibilities. We support common-sense regulation of firearms so we may assemble in public without fear of gun violence

One firearms manufacturer recently announced the sale of the JR-15; a smaller, lighter assault weapon for a child. The public harm is a reasonably foreseeable effect of the company's marketing this weapon to children.

We must require that the firearm industries establish and implement reasonable controls regarding firearm-related products. When companies abdicate their responsibility to public safety, we must hold them accountable. The public must be able to bring action for damages against a firearms industry member for injury or loss sustained.

The measure before you today is another tool to protect all of us from gun violence. We ask you to stand on the side of love and justice. We urge you to vote for this bill and others that strengthen Maryland's gun violence prevention laws.

We urge a favorable report.

Ken Shilling

Ken Shilling
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate