



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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2009 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

During the 2009 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, there was major progress on issues that UULM-MD supported. UUs testified before committees in support of our positions, attended rallies and other events in conjunction with other like-minded organizations, and urged UUs to contact their legislators. Maryland UUs made a difference by being actively involved in the following important issues. Thank you!

Global Warming: The **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009** passed and the Governor signed it into law. The bill mandates that the Department of the Environment develop a plan that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland by 25% by 2020. This legislation puts Maryland in the forefront on this issue.

Repeal of the Death Penalty: There was major support for the repeal of the death penalty in Maryland, especially in the House. Instead of complete repeal, both houses passed legislation to restrict the death penalty law by limiting the types of evidence in capital cases. This makes Maryland law concerning state executions the most restrictive in the nation.

Marriage Equality: The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act that would end marriage discrimination for same-sex couples failed to make it out of either the Senate or House committees for the second year. However, the number of co-sponsors of this legislation increased and a bill supporting a constitutional amendment stating that marriage is only between a man and a woman was defeated by the House Judiciary Committee.

Health Care Reform: Together with the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and other coalition members, UULM-MD endorsed a plan for effective next steps in health care expansion. UULM-MD assisted in educating Marylanders and their legislators with other Maryland organizations especially Montgomery Health Care Action about the two major reform bills—building on the current systems or having a single payer system. No actions were taken primarily because of upcoming Federal legislation.

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