

Evelyn M. Samman

Testimony in Support of House Bill 713
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 17, 2022

Good afternoon, Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the committee. My name is Evelyn Samman, and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 713.

I am 10 years old and a member of Waredaca Pony Club in Montgomery County. I have a horse named Simba and have been riding most of my life. My grandmother even bought me a riding helmet before I was born.

I think passing this bill is important because:

1. Helmets keep your head safe, so you don't damage or badly injure your head during a fall.
2. And the U.S. Pony Club manual even says: "Helmets must be worn with chinstraps fastened and properly fitted **whenever you are on a horse or pony.**"
3. Lastly, Maryland already requires kids to wear bicycle helmets when biking on public roadways that are used by cars and people walking. So, it makes sense if you are riding a horse, you should wear a helmet too.

Thank you very much for your time and I respectfully request a favorable committee report on this bill.