

I am very disturbed by this bill that eliminates the protection of the liability waiver because I feel it not only jeopardizes the already precarious horse industry, but it precludes a future for it.

If there is no liability waiver protecting the horse service providers such as Encore Stables llc that providing horse boarding, medical rehabilitation, and riding lessons to area residents than we will be unable to advance the future of the horse industry.

When I moved here in 1985, the horse industry was the third largest income producer for the state of Maryland. It has seen a steady decline, yet businesses like ours have attempted to continue to operate despite rising costs, less land, and a changing demographic for clients.

Covid brought a renewed interest in horseback riding with most riding stables offering lessons having a huge waiting list, something that hasn't happened in twenty years. There is a significant renewal of interest that this bill will kill in one fell swoop.

Why? Because NOBODY will offer riding lessons to anyone under the age of 18 due to the sue happy nature of the current residents in the area.

Riding lessons will be a thing of the past which means there will be no future horse owners, trainers, farm managers, grooms, horse shippers, farriers, equine chiropractors, massage therapists, and no reason to operate a boarding barn, equine veterinary hospital, grow hay, grow oats or barley. Whatever is left of the horse industry and all of the supportive businesses will cease to function.

Signing this bill is the absolute worst thing that can happen for this industry.

Athena Haresign  
[30-526-8273](tel:30-526-8273)

Athena Haresign  
Managing Partner

Encore Stables IIc