

**SB 452 Courts - Prohibited Liability Agreements - Recreational Facilities
March 25, 2024 - UNFAVORABLE**

Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please consider opposing this bill. The ripple effect of recreational venues will cause millions of dollars to go out of state. For instance, I own a horse farm in Davidsonville where I host clinics and allow other equestrians on to my farm to learn from professionals coming from other parts of Maryland, Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania that I will not be comfortable doing given the lack of liability waivers. We participate in 15+ shows in the state of Maryland that we will potentially have to go out of state to attend with no liability waivers.

In the equestrian world, we are dealing with large animals and we are unable to take all risks away from participants. It is much different than a trampoline park for instance. We are not able to remove risk and riders acknowledge the risk, but farm owners need protection in the litigious society we have created. I truly hate that we would have to take our business outside of the state of Maryland where equestrians and the equine business makes up a large portion of revenue for the state.

As a mother of a 15 year old son, I also believe most club and Rec sports will either be removed, closed, or moved to another state which will create a decline of physically active children and adults. Liability waivers are the one reason people and companies can open up recreational facilities to the public.

The only people that will benefit from this is attorneys. The number of suits this bill is going to create will jam up the court system.

I really hope you agree and oppose this bill. At the very least, exclude equestrian farms and venues. The amount of revenue lost will be astonishing.

Thank you for listening and please vote against this erroneous bill.

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