
Testimony of Julia Batters
In opposition of Senate Bill 0452- Courts
prohibited liability agreements- recreational
facilities
March 25th 2024

We are in opposition to this bill due to its potentially detrimental impact on our lesson and boarding barn in Maryland. Several concerns arise:

1. Given the inherent risks associated with handling large and unpredictable animals like horses, the absence of liability waivers would strip away crucial protections for equine businesses, leaving us vulnerable to lawsuits stemming from unavoidable accidents.

2. This shift could lead to an increase in frivolous lawsuits, further burdening small businesses like ours with legal expenses and time-consuming litigation.

3. The resultant rise in insurance premiums would impose additional financial strain, likely forcing us to pass on these costs to our customers, potentially driving away a significant portion of our clientele.

4. Moreover, the possibility of insurance companies withdrawing coverage for riding and boarding facilities in Maryland due to heightened risk could render it unsustainable to continue operations in the state.

5. Ultimately, the cumulative effect of these factors may lead to the closure of numerous boarding and lesson facilities across Maryland, adversely impacting both businesses and the broader equine community."