

Testimony Against Maryland SB 452:

Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

This bill, as I read and understand it, seems to affect recreational and athletic facilities, including but not limited to those used for equine activities. As a rider and trainer this has the potential to greatly impact the places I work out of and their ability to have insurance coverage. As it seems to me to read, my rights to a personal liability waiver are not changing but if the places I work out of are forced to close due to sharp rises in insurance coverage or a complete lack of coverage that is of little significance to me.

As a horse owner who boards horses and participates in off site activities and competitions this bill also seemingly will make boarding in the state of Maryland increasingly expensive and difficult to afford as many barns will face large insurance increases, passing those along to boarders or being forced to close to boarders all together.

This bill appears to have been pushed through very quietly, I was only made aware last week via email from the Maryland Horse Council. I do not believe time was taken to assess the potential impact this will have on the Maryland horse industry and small recreational and wellness focused businesses. Knowing the size of the horse industry combined with these other businesses it seems this bill has the potential to greatly impact the Maryland economy.

As a resident of Maryland, I am very disappointed with the lack of attention this bill has had and the way it was, seemingly, haphazardly handled in its passing through the committees.

I urge you to take another look at this bill and give some thought to the impact it is likely to have on numerous small, local businesses.

Sincerely,

Kelsea Blazek