

Judiciary Committee

Senator Carter

SB0452

03/27/2024

1:00 PM

IN OPPOSITION of Bill SB0452

To those concerned,

My name is Haley Bishop and I have been an equestrian since I was four years old. My love for riding came from my mother's passion for animals and the fact that she put me on a horse as soon as I could walk. I have always dreamed of a space of my own to keep my two horses, Joey and Luke, but difficult life changes and financial instability has made it hard to pursue this dream. I worked hard to purchase these horses of my own, but due to not having my own property to keep them, I have relied on local farms to board them and to provide me a space to ride. I have always signed waivers and felt more than comfortable to ride my horses on others' property, even when I have injured myself in sport. Not only has this given me a more financially appropriate circumstance to continue to do what I love while also paying for my horses, but has also given me the opportunity to use physical labor on the farm to help pay for the board of my horses when I do not have enough money.

If this bill is passed, a waiver will not be enough. The owner of the barn where I keep my horses fears that they will have to start charging their boarders for insurance, which will financially impact many young equestrians and their ability to continue to ride. Not only will this impact the parents who are already paying for riding lessons for their children, but will also impact the owner of the barn, who may begin to lose riders and boarders with high insurance costs. This could put them at the potential risk to shut down, which leaves many young riders and boarders with nowhere to go, especially if all barns have to charge for insurance. Paying to board and ride at other barns was a smarter and more financially comfortable decision to make, but we fear for our animals and the increase in costs with already high expenses if this bill is passed. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and continuing to support the growing youth.

,Haley Bishop

Talbot County Pony Club