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Chair, House Judiciary Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Opposition to SB 452 – Prohibited Liability Agreements for Recreational Facilities

Dear Chairman,

On behalf of the equine therapy business, which is what I have studied for the past four years to do, and also the recreational businesses, such as axe throwing, which is my part time job and what has given me a paycheck while educating myself, I urge you to rethink and oppose this bill.

I believe that the equine industry is very important to Maryland. Riding facilities help to teach kids and teens boundaries, and responsibilities. Horses teach so many amazing things and are so healing. We work with special needs children, and there are many therapeutic programs in Maryland. Many of the riding facilities would possibly lose their business due to not being able to afford insurance without having waivers in place. I have been in school to earn my degree, and then followed with a two-year certification program to partner with horses to help people heal, and I just started my own LLC that will not even be able to open its doors without waivers in place because the insurance company will not cover me. How can a bill pass that will put so many people out of business with the economy in the shape it is already in. Haven't we already been hit enough? Everyone is trying to climb up and make the best of a lot that is going on in this world, and to sign this into a law would mean that many, not just in the equine industry, could lose their businesses.

I understand after reading Senator Carter's testimony what the man purpose of this bill is for, but our liability waivers protect us from (excuse the way I say this) the ignorance of others, not if we are negligent. Even with a waiver, I cannot allow my property to be at fault for someone's injury, that will still fall on me, just like where I work at the Axe Throwing venue in Harford County, the waivers do not cover our negligence, just the customers. Please reconsider this bill, it can do so much damage to many Maryland businesses.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my concerns with you about this matter.

Respectfully
Tricia Kiebler
Saddle the Storm, LLC
Equine Gestaltist