

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has just been brought to the attention of the owner of my horse barn, that a potential bill to ban liability waivers is being discussed by the State.

They have let their boarders know to write to you, as this would of course affect us all. I have been boarding at my current barn "Bucks Haven" for 5 yrs. Previously to that I boarded at Patapsco Horse Center for 15 yrs. I am the proud owner of 2 horses in my life time so far, and truly enjoy what freedom Maryland currently allows for the horse owners in this State.

This proposed bill seems like a direct attack on the horse industry of Maryland. Without the liability waiver, farms will no longer be able to offer boarding or lessons, and in that case many of them will have to close. They won't be able to cover the insurance costs. This bill will end up hurting the common man more, and I assume profit the insurance companies as is the normal way of things nowadays.

Why would a state that has previously prided itself on its horse history both culturally and in racing, want to do this to the horse riders of this State? What could the State possibly hope to gain?

It would appear that if a bill would go through, it would no longer be possible to own and board a horse in this State!

What do you have planned for all the horses that would then have no where to go. Will I have to move my horse to Virginia, Pennsylvania or Delaware as a result?

As an M.S patient who uses riding as a means to stay healthy in both body and mind, this is most unsettling and upsetting.

Sincerely

Fiona Thompson