



LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 182- SUPPORT

February 4, 2025

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Dear Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

Maryland Therapeutic Riding is a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of life of children, adults, active military and veterans by connecting humans and horses in a healing environment. This healing takes place while connecting the physical, psychological, and emotional aspects of working and bonding with horses in the natural setting of our farm.

MTR serves clients from ages 2 to 82 and works with children and adults with a wide range of challenges including, but not limited to the following: Anxiety, Depression, Traumatic Brain Injury, Developmental delays, Cerebral palsy, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Amputees, and more. Our equine-assisted services consist of adaptive riding, physical, speech, and occupational therapies, as well as equine-assisted psychotherapy.

Veterans and active military personnel make up approximately 10% of our participant population, and we hope to expand our services to better serve both military personnel and **their eligible family members** in the future. Wounded veterans and active military personnel, along with their families, can join any of our equine-assisted activities or therapy programs at MTR, free of charge. We are supportive of the efforts to include **eligible family members** in these services, recognizing that the therapeutic benefits extend not just to the individuals who have served, but also to their families, who often bear the emotional and psychological burdens of their loved ones' experiences.

MTR is deeply committed to providing these critical services, and we are constantly working to secure additional funding to ensure that our offerings grow, benefiting both service members and **eligible family members**. We fully support the addition of **eligible family members** as part of the services provided, as their involvement is crucial to the holistic recovery process.



1141 Sunrise Beach RD
Crownsville, MD 21032
www.horsethatheal.org

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Please do not hesitate to contact us for a tour or to see our programs in action. Many of our participants, including those in our Equine Services for Heroes program, are available to advocate and share their stories about the positive impact these services have had on their lives and their families.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding fully supports Senate Bill 182, especially the expansion to include **eligible family members** in these services, and we look forward to the continued growth and impact of these vital programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly".

Kelly Rodgers

PATH Intl. Certified Master Instructor

Executive Director

Maryland Therapeutic Riding, Inc.