



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 13, 2020

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

## **Re: Support of SB 505 - Crimes Against Animals - Interference With Equines**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 505 with an amendment, legislation that expands the scope of current law that prohibits the interfering with, injuring, tampering with, or destroying a horse used for racing or breeding or for a competitive exhibition of skill, breed, or stamina by including all horses. A person who violates this section of current law is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment of not less than 1 year and not exceeding 3 years.

There have been several instances over the last few years where farmers and horse owners have had people interfere with their animals and cause undue harm and potential injury. Many cases have been around horse carriage rides and at county fairs. This bill would add these horses to current state law that prohibits someone from doing these acts of violence.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:** We oppose animal rights activism that disrupts farming operations, Ag related activities on and off the farm, fairs, racetracks, livestock sales or research facilities.

**Amendment:** Since this bill only expands to all horses instead of including the other livestock, MFB is asking for an amendment to include all livestock.

## **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 505 WITH AN AMENDMENT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

*For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396*