

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am testifying **in opposition of SB 0605** which would allow Sunday Hunting of all game mammals and birds on private lands, in Queen Anne's County Maryland.

I am the Program and Equine Director for Talisman Therapeutic Riding and our farm is surrounded by hunting properties. Our operations must be strictly monitored during hunting season. Horses are adversely affected by the noise of firearms and the activities of hunters. The sound of firearms and movements in cover create dangerous safety concerns for horse riders and handlers. Sunday is the one day that our physically and emotionally challenged riders can enjoy Therapeutic horses and programs without concern of interrupting activities, whether it be trailering offsite to recreational State lands bordered by private and other private lands granted permission to ride, or on the private lands of registered 501c3 -Talisman Therapeutic Riding Inc.

Secondly, I am a member with Honorary Colors and serve on the Board of Directors of Wicomico Hunt Club. We enjoy the recreational long-standing tradition of Fox-Chasing. Sunday firearm hunting would negatively affect the lands we are granted permission to ride and surrounding properties.

It seems that to pass this bill and change what has worked reasonably well for years, for most Queen Anne's County residents, would have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting those who have the least heard voices here. They are, however, by no means the least important ones! Our participants and their families are challenged every day in ways that most cannot imagine. We should not take this remaining day, a day without the threat to safety from firearm activity, away from those who rely on Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) and other recreational riders simply to offset "busy Saturdays" for those to now enjoy hunting with firearms on Sunday's. I cannot stress enough how critical these services are for those who have children or family members affected by physical, cognitive, emotional or behavioral disabilities and enjoy our tranquil surroundings on Sunday's.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my testimony and **my Opposition of SB 0605** and representing ALL residents of Queen Anne's County.

Respectfully,

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Program and Equine Director
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