

## HB1388 Labor and Employment – Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Clauses – Veterinary and Health Care Professionals

### Written Testimony

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I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Bill HB1388 concerning Labor and Employment, specifically addressing noncompete and conflict of interest clauses for veterinary and healthcare professionals. (FAV) As a concerned citizen and a mother of an up-and-coming sport horse competition rider, I am deeply invested in the well-being and care of our equine athletes.

Our journey in the world of competitive horse riding has introduced us to various challenges, one of which has been the limited access to specialized veterinary care due to noncompete agreements. Currently, we have had the privilege of working with Dr. Brittany, a veterinarian whose expertise and dedication have been instrumental in the health and performance of our horse. However, due to existing noncompete clauses in the area, we are now compelled to travel over an hour to receive care from Dr. Brittany, who is uniquely qualified to address the specific needs of our horses. In Addition to the level of care that Dr. Brittany and Dr. CJ offer, they provide me with a level of comfort. I did not grow up riding and have been on a learning curve over the past few years. They are patient, kind, and understanding of this so they always take the time to explain to me in a way I can understand what is going on and what I need to do for the best care of the horse and subsequently my child. This to me is invaluable.

The ramifications of this situation are profound. Having to transport a lame or injured horse over long distances merely to access appropriate veterinary care not only exacerbates the animal's condition but also adds unnecessary stress and expense for the owner. Furthermore, it jeopardizes the timely treatment and rehabilitation necessary for the horse to continue competing at a high level.

The essence of competitive horse riding lies not only in the skill and dedication of the rider but also in the comprehensive support network that ensures the well-being of the equine partner. As a mother deeply invested in my child's passion for equestrian sports, I strongly believe that we should have the freedom to choose the healthcare professionals best suited to meet the unique needs of our horses.

Passage of Bill HB1388 would provide essential relief from the constraints imposed by noncompete agreements, empowering owners like myself to access specialized veterinary care without undue burdens. By allowing veterinarians the flexibility to practice within their areas of expertise and eliminating restrictive clauses, this bill would foster a healthier and more vibrant equine community, benefiting both horses and their dedicated caretakers which Southern Maryland desperately needs.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the significant impact that Bill HB1388 would have on the welfare of our beloved equine companions and the livelihoods of those who rely on their care. By supporting this bill, you would not only champion the rights of horse owners and riders but also uphold the fundamental principles of choice and access to quality healthcare.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns and aspirations of the equestrian community.

Sincerely,

Linda Callahan