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*Legislative District 21*  
Prince George's and  
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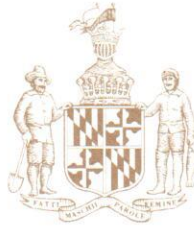
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Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations and  
Long Term Care

Chair, Public Health and  
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## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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### **HJ 0007 2026 FIFA World Cup - Protection of Human Rights**

House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

#### **Testimony of Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (Support, as amended)**

Chairman Healey and members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, I am pleased to present House Joint Resolution 0007.

In preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, over a million migrant workers moved there. According to The Guardian Newspaper, the workforce for Qatar 2022 is mainly composed of migrant workers. There have been 11 confirmed deaths directly linked to building the stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. These are 11 deaths too many.

HJ 0007 will support the fundamental requirements for United 2026 as laid out in FIFA's "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy." It encourages worker protections. It provides for policies that promote diversity. It establishes a welcome atmosphere for international players and visitors. Passing this legislation will significantly strengthen our region's bid to become the host location for the 2026 FIFA games.

Securing the host location is important to Maryland. The 2026 World Cup presents an opportunity for our state to realize between 300 and 500 million dollars in economic benefits, affecting multiple sectors of the local economy. A successful and principled experience, with Washington and Baltimore as host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, will showcase our state for favorable consideration to host future international events that can bring additional economic growth to our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Joint Resolution 0007. I have requested a technical amendment which revises the instructions for distributing the Resolution to "the Representative of the seventh Congressional district." I respectfully request your favorable vote.