



House Economic Matters Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, Maryland

Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act: SB0085  
Individual Testimony: **Favorable**  
Hearing: March 28, 2024, 1:00pm

Dear Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

Baltimore Transformative Learning Collective strongly encourages a **favorable** repost for SB85 - Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act, which creates a corporate entity for limited worker cooperative associations and established rules and procedures for formation, governance, and dissolution of these entities.

We were founded in April 2022, by two former classroom teachers who wanted to bring liberatory learning in our city to fruition. With support from organizations like Baltimore Roundtable for Economic Democracy (BRED), we have learned that it is through worker cooperatives we can embody true democracy and equity as a small business. Though, even with their expert guidance and immaculate patience, our experience of wading through all of the steps to do business in a way that aligns with our values is *extremely challenging*. This is because Maryland does not have a worker cooperative statute. As Maryland law currently states, basic, necessary steps around incorporation, workers' compensation, and taxes are much more difficult and confusing for worker-cooperatives. In passing SB0085 with its amendments, these imperative tasks become significantly easier and actually applicable to the way we do business.

Thank you for your consideration in this extremely important matter. As two of the thousands of Maryland citizens who would directly benefit from the passing of this legislation, we urge a **favorable** vote. If you have any questions about this testimony, please reach out to [bmoretransform@gmail.com](mailto:bmoretransform@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Victoria Lebrón, Founding Partner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Lebrón". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gab Sussman, Founding Partner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gab Sussman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.