



**TESTIMONY**  
**SENATE BILL 0085**  
**MARYLAND LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ACT**  
**POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to urge your support of the Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act to authorize the formation of limited worker cooperative associations and establish rules and procedures for the formation, governance, conversion, and dissolution of limited worker cooperative associations.

As a life-long resident of Baltimore City, I have seen many businesses and nonprofit organizations come and go, much to the disappointment of the communities that depend on them. This is due, in part, to the lack of statutory infrastructure in the State of Maryland to support the formation of new cooperative businesses. Two of cooperative organizations I am currently working with as a founding member, though they might have considered incorporating in Maryland, looked elsewhere due to the lack of a limited cooperative association option in this state.

If more entrepreneurs and community organizations saw worker-owned cooperatives as a via option in the State of Maryland, there would be more upfront support and less last-minute conversions which, in many cases, occur when businesses are too far gone to recover. This would also make it easier to receive legal services, insurance, and other supports needed to operate.

Living Corners, a non-profit organization based in the State of Maryland, promotes health, equity, access, and longevity in Baltimore City neighborhoods through the ideation and creation of health-conscious and community-oriented businesses. We would benefit from the ability to establish a limited cooperative association for our business participants to receive ongoing support.

Please make it easier to create and manage worker cooperatives in Maryland by voting in favor of Senate Bill 0085.

Sincerely,

Amber N. Jones

President