

House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act: SB144/HB15
Individual Testimony: **Favorable**
Hearing: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

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 HB15 with its amendments, these imperative tasks become significantly easier and actually applicable to the way we do business.

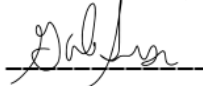
Thank you for your consideration in this extremely important matter. As four of the thousands of Maryland citizens who would directly benefit from the passing of this legislation, we urge a **favorable** vote. If you have any questions about this testimony, please reach out to bmoretransform@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


Victoria Lebrón, Co-founder and Worker-Partner



Gab Sussman, Co-founder and Worker-Partner



Leari-Jenee Jones, Worker-Partner



Brandon Rashad-Butts, Co-founder and Worker-Partner

