

My name is Jonathan Chance. I am submitting a favorable testimony for House Bill 0015. I work for a local, black, community-led non-profit, called BCIIITY.

For the past 2 years we have been working to champion a multi-stakeholder cooperative entity that can create a sense of ease in how non-profits and the community members they serve can better understand can control the wealth of data created from grassroots interventions. We have felt a deep need to educate our community on the importance of cooperatives and how they can actualize their sense of communal thriving.

I believe that worker-coops create more intrinsic motivation in those employed because there is a clear benefit to their community and it gives them a strong sense of ownership. The ownership piece is key. For a city like Baltimore, residents are accustomed to external initiatives that do not have long-lasting benefits. With worker-coops, the business' effect on the community would be spearheaded by those in the community who have deeper insights on what has and has not worked. These are the first steps to empowering communities to effect positive change in their environment.