

Testimony in Support of SB0392 – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program

We urge you to adopt SB0392 to take advantage of Maryland's highly skilled scientific work force, to promote Maryland's healthy growing economy, and to enable the future contributions of its citizens afflicted with Long COVID.

Our daughter, Elana Levin, is a highly regarded communications expert training non-profit organizations to effectively use social media to grow their base and serve their constituents.

In 2021, while working for a leading national organization that holds conferences and educational webinars, Elana contracted COVID despite being fully vaccinated and masking and taking all the recommended precautions. After several months, it became clear that Elana was suffering from what is now known as "Long COVID," a debilitating disease for which there is no cure.

Once very energetic, Elana can no longer lead a normal life. She cannot participate in any physical activity without experiencing significant physical pain and is largely confined to her home. As a result, Elana's earnings are reduced because she cannot take on the large contracts or attend the in-person meetings she had in the past and must now do all of her work remotely. These limitations put her at serious risk of losing her job due to this disability.

Prior to getting COVID, Elana was very physically fit, working out 5 days a week. It is now recognized that Long COVID is a measurable, medical condition. Elana's bloodwork has shown "viral reactivation" due to COVID as the probable cause for her sickness. Now she is on expensive prescription medication only made available through hard-to-reach specialists.

There are more people with Long COVID than there are specialists or clinics available, which has only been made worse due to government defunding. Many Long COVID clinics have been forced to close despite increasing demand.¹ Because exercise is clinically counter indicated for

¹ <https://scienceline.org/2026/01/long-covid-clinics-are-quietly-closing-leaving-thousands-of-patients-without-specialized-care/>

most Long COVID victims, Elana can expect her life expectancy to be abbreviated if we fail to conduct this much-needed research to find treatments for this large population and begin such research now.

Many Long COVID victims have died due to co-morbidities, but many more are bedridden and require total financial support since they no longer are able to work at all. Many Long COVID victims, however, are young and eager to resume their place in the workforce.

We know that Long COVID lasts at least three years, because its sufferers have had it that long, but we don't have any idea of the average duration. We also know that Long COVID sufferers will continue to suffer into the future and so far, have no hope that they will ever regain their health. Your support for SB0392 will provide much needed hope given that the Federal Government has now made critical cutbacks in vital research in this area.

The Cost²

- Long COVID research is not funded proportionately to its economic and social impact.
- Long COVID costs the world an estimated \$1 Trillion annually and \$9,000 per victim in this country. Annual lost earnings in the US alone are estimated at \$170 billion.³
- Worldwide, an estimated 65 million people have Long COVID. Over 18 million American adults have had this interminable disease. In Maryland, about 4.6% of Marylanders (288,000) suffer from Long COVID.⁴
- With COVID still a major health issue, repeat bouts of COVID are a major risk factor for contracting Long COVID, resulting in more victims in the years ahead. Between 10% and 33% of those who contract COVID develop Long COVID.

² See **SolveME**, for reports and research regarding Long COVID. <https://solvecfs.org/the-solve-long-covid-initiative/>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12607343/pdf/healthcare-13-02704.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/long-covid/php/surveillance/index.html>

- Long COVID means lost income, lost tax revenue, and increased demand for public services.

HB 27 Benefits

Manufacture of Long COVID cures in Maryland will benefit the tax base, improve incomes and retain the State's cachet as a medical science mecca.

HB 27 would fund scientific research, product development, and the manufacture of tools or therapies that would help people recover from Long COVID.

Curing Long COVID will reduce Medicaid costs, increase productivity, and reemploy researchers fired by DOGE and the Trump Administration in its purge of science and expertise.

Manufacture of Long COVID cures in Maryland will benefit the tax base, improve incomes and retain the State's cachet as a medical science mecca.

SB0392's benefits are immediate and long term. It will have an immediate positive impact on Maryland's economy and its most highly skilled workforce. In time, SBO392 may cure a scourge once unknown to mankind but oppresses millions now and millions more in the future.

For all of the above reasons, we urge the Maryland Assembly to invest in its future and its people.

Ms. Toby M. Levin
7501 Rockledge Dr. Apt. 203
Bethesda, MD 20817

Mr. Ronald I. Levin
6726 Sulky Lane
Rockville, MD 20852