

**HB27-Maryland TEDCO-Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program**  
**Position: FAV**

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
SHealth Committee  
Room 240, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Health Committee

Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

While I usually come before this committee on behalf of Economic Action Maryland Fund to promote legislation that expands protections for patients with medical debt and promotes affordable, accessible healthcare, today, I urge a favorable report on HB27 in my personal capacity, as a mother.

My son, Roric, is a senior at UMBC studying astrophysics. He dreams of working at NASA and his research focuses on gravitational wave theory and measurement. He has been awarded and maintained two partial scholarships at UMBC.

However, last November, my son had to withdraw from Fall semester for medical leave. He has also had to withdraw from this semester. He has POTS (Post-Orthostatic Tachycardia) which is an autoimmune disease and one of the constellation of autoimmune illnesses that patients with Long-COVID experience. In short, every day he wakes up and at his best feels as if he has a bad case of the flu with all of the aches, nausea, brain fog. At his worst, he can't wake up at all and when he does he does not feel rested and has flu-like symptoms.

My son was diagnosed with POTS at 14, going from an 8th grader who swam and played basketball daily as well as a straight A student to someone who was bedbound for most of his junior year of high school.

There are 630,486 Marylanders who have Long-COVID<sup>1</sup>. At the federal level, Congressman Jamie Raskin passed legislation to provide funding for Long-COVID via NIH. HB27 builds on these federal efforts by creating a mechanism to establish a pipeline for funding for Long-Covid and affiliated chronic illnesses by Maryland researchers to benefit Maryland patients and patients across the country.

HB27 supports funding for Maryland research institutions, spurs innovation, and provides benefits to patients to improve or cure their illnesses which will expand economic growth throughout the state.

For all these reasons, I support HB27 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Baltimore City, D-40

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[https://www.statista.com/statistics/1401338/number-of-adults-with-long-covid-symptoms-in-the-us-by-state/?srsltid=AfmBOogB3ESfTiDm3\\_uFvdW9HcihfOuuZLR94ahWphe2Yhie5vqypOJu](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1401338/number-of-adults-with-long-covid-symptoms-in-the-us-by-state/?srsltid=AfmBOogB3ESfTiDm3_uFvdW9HcihfOuuZLR94ahWphe2Yhie5vqypOJu)

