

HB0027

FAV

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I am an Annapolis resident severely impacted by COVID-19. I am writing to support HB0027 and SB0392, which will fund a grant and loan program at the Maryland Technology Development Corporation for Long COVID innovation and research.

My story is one of many thousands in the state. At the time of my COVID infection, I was actively writing a book and poised to secure a contract with a major publisher. While the acute respiratory symptoms passed, severe cognitive deficits emerged, making it painful to think, read, and write. (Composing this testimony is difficult.) Crushing fatigue and post-exertion malaise, a feature of post-Covid ME/CFS, limited my ability to care for myself and others. Homebound and often bedridden, I became a shadow of myself, unable to work or participate in my community.

This legislation will help take Marylanders like me out of the shadows by encouraging needed research and innovation on a uniquely challenging condition.

So long as COVID-19 continues to spread, Long COVID will continue to cause school and work absence, job and housing loss, and other problems that impact the entire state. Please help stem these losses and repair the damage by providing for this opportunity. Please help me and other Marylanders become vital, productive residents again. Please think of the children in the state impacted by Long COVID and currently facing a dearth of options to recover. We owe it to their future to learn how to help this growing population and solve this chronic condition.

As long-term effects of COVID continue to disable Marylanders, I believe the home state of the NIH should lead in researching the complex condition and providing residents options for effective care. I hope you will agree by passing this important legislation.

Thank you for your attention and for your concern about the impact of Long COVID on our state.

Sincerely,

Gwynn Dujardin, PhD

Annapolis