

I write in strong support of the Maryland bill for Long Covid research development.

20-30 million adults and 6 million kids in the U.S. are suffering from Long Covid. It now surpasses asthma as the most common chronic illness for children. These numbers are growing with reinfections, regardless of vaccine status. I just finished a Long Covid clinical trial at Duke, and 50% of the trial participants had been vaccinated and boosted prior to the covid infection that led to Long Covid.

The economic market for Long Covid research and treatment development is limitless. You have several million people unable to work because of this disease. A treatment that lets people work, care for their kids, pay their bills again would be life changing and save the economy.

I was a super healthy, very athletic 33 year old with a successful career before I got covid in March 2020. Now, I've been severely disabled and largely bedridden in the dark for 6 years. I am one the "millions missing." I would travel to maryland to participate in research, relocate for a trial, and if a state like Maryland went to such lengths to invest in my recovery, would happily move there and restart my career etc with my renewed lease on life.

Not to mention, people with Long Covid are developing POTS, ME/CFS and other serious co-diagnoses. We are dying of complications; it's just not being reported accurately. The CDC's last report on Long Covid deaths was in 2022 at 3,500 people.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/releases/20221214.html>

Please help save us (and potentially yourselves and your children with a future covid infection) by approving this bill.

Thank you,

Gillian McCrea